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NEW-SEASON TRENDS

Five looks to update your
period home for autumn

BEST BUYS

- Wall clocks • Lighting
- Range cookers
- Kitchens • Bathrooms

Designer style

Julien Macdonald on how to
use colour and pattern

20 COSY IDEAS FOR LIVING ROOMS

• Snug sofas • Relaxing armchairs • Comfy cushions • Handy footstools





Model shown: OLYCALE Cosmos (Electric only)



Welcome

The other morning as I left the house I felt that telltale chill in the air that told me **autumn is on the way**. It hardly seems possible that after the glorious long days of summer we will soon be winding back the clocks for winter (for the record they go back on 25 October, so make a note on your calendar) – **our pick of the best wall clocks** (p11) will ensure you're ready to turn back time.

Our homes become our sanctuary as we start to spend more time indoors. To prepare for winter in my home I bring out extra cushions to make my sofa feel more inviting, and throw down rugs on the floor that had been packed away for summer in favour of bare floorboards – it instantly changes the ambience in my living room to make it feel cosier. For more inspiration, turn to page 79, where our interiors expert has brought together a selection of **sumptuous soft furnishings to make your living room a comfortable and welcoming place**. While we're on the subject, our four **real homes** are all country cottages that, to me, epitomise the word cosy, from the gorgeous thatched cottage that features on our cover to an old stable that has been lovingly converted by the owners.

And don't miss our competition on page 99 to win a **gourmet overnight stay at a five-star country house hotel in Sussex** – it's free and easy to enter online. Good luck!

ZOE BALDING, EDITOR



This month I love: FIERY AMBER SHADES



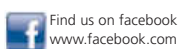
1. Dark evenings go hand in hand with candlelight. LSA **TEALIGHT HOLDER** in Amber, £14.50, Red Candy. 2. I love supporting young British talent and I have my eye on this Barnhill, Isle of Jura **CUSHION**, £28, by Stephen Millership at Art Rookie. 3. This oval light will cast beautiful patterns on my walls. Leonie **PENDANT** in Amber, £310, Luku Home. 4. A table lamp will brighten up a dark corner. Admiral **LAMP BASE**, £130; and shade, £90; both Pooky. 5. This pretty armchair is inspired by a 19th century Swedish design. Sark **ARMCHAIR** in Sunshine, £620, Sofa.com.

GET IN TOUCH

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PRIZE DRAWS

Be in with a chance of winning the prize draws featured in the magazine each month by visiting www.periodhomesandinteriors.com/competitions.

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DON'T MISS THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF PERIOD HOMES & INTERIORS, ON SALE 25 SEPTEMBER

SEE THE BIG PICTURE

When designing your floor, think of your home as a unified whole to create a seamless living environment.

By treating all floors as a singular space, you can make areas such as the kitchen, dining room and the lounge connect together. Flooring shown in Lattice Cornflower Blue, £42.95 per sq m, www.harveymaria.co.uk.



IN THE NEWS

Our round-up of design buys, favourite home products and new-season trends

Burnished beauties

The interiors trend for copper continues unabated, and is perfect for adding rustic charm to a period home. Layer dimpled and burnished copper accents to create texture and warmth with the Coco ceiling lamp, £105; and Warung side table/stool, £125, both from Cuckooland, 01305 231231, www.cuckooland.com.



Fans of Swedish style will love this Mora clock from Gustavian, which is based on a design from the 1700s and costs £2,400. www.gustavian.com.

SLEEP IN LUXURY

With autumn now upon us, splash out on this stylish Herbarium bed linen from Hästens. Made from the finest 100% Egyptian cotton, it's light to the touch, yet warm and cosy for those fast-approaching chilly nights. Prices from £20 for a pillowcase. 020 7436 0646, www.hastens.com.



In the navy

Stripes and checks are a classic combination that will stand the test of time. On sofa: Navy ticking, £24.50 per m; on curtains: Oban Check, £39.50 per m; on footstool: Regency Stripe velvet, £64.50 per m; on lampshade: Oakham Navy wallcovering, £49.50; all from the new Britannia collection by Ian Mankin. 020 7722 0997, www.ianmankin.co.uk.

3 OF THE BEST DRAWER PULLS



Blues Pansies ceramic drawer knob, 4.5cm (dia), £2.95, Dotcomgiftshop.



Didi brass drawer pulls, available in two sizes, from £5 each, The Orchard.



Cracked ceramic cupboard door knobs (part of a set of six), £22, Pushka Knobs.



NATIONAL WALLPAPER WEEK, 5-11 OCTOBER

Launched by Graham & Brown, 5-11 October marks the first ever National Wallpaper Week, a celebration of all that is great in the world of wallpaper, from its design, craft and heritage to how it can transform a space. Celebrity designers including Julien Macdonald, Kelly Hoppen and Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, as well as a whole host of retailers, manufacturers and enthusiasts will deliver a week of ideas, tips and new products to inspire you to transform your home with wallpaper. To find out more visit www.nationalwallpaperweek.co.uk.



TOP TIPS ON WALLPAPER

from designer Julien Macdonald

Florals can give your rooms vibrance, richness and optimism.

Embrace bright, eye-catching prints but keep floors and ceilings neutral or white to maintain a sense of harmony. If you're worried about using more than one pattern, choose prints with varying scales of florals. The florals within my collection offer both strong, tropical looks and also more subdued florals with a twist.

Exotica Blue/Pink wallpaper, £20 per roll, www.grahambrown.com.

1

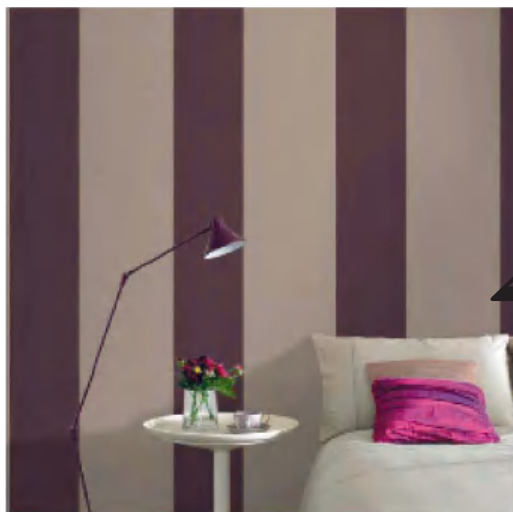


2

Stripes are the most fashionable choice of the season.

They are particularly effective if you're looking to 'stretch' walls and give the illusion of space. Just like fashion, vertical stripes make rooms appear taller, while horizontal stripes create width.

Glitz Damson/Cappuccino wallpaper, £20 per roll, www.grahambrown.com.

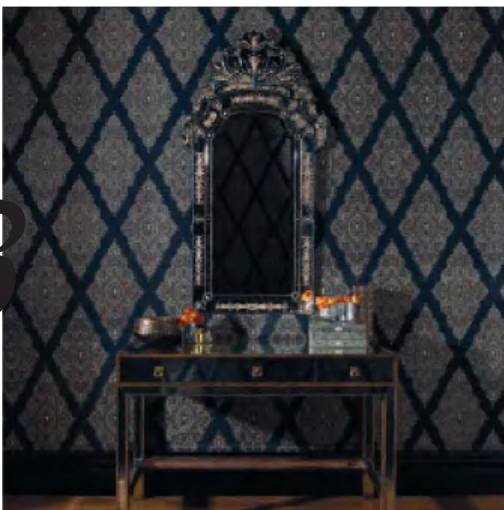


3

Bright, vibrant designs aren't for everyone, so it's comforting to know that dark wallpaper is very much in vogue.

Black wallpaper oozes sophistication, and you'll be surprised at just how much life these dark designs can breathe life into your room. There are many different patterns and styles to choose from, which means you can really get creative. Jewel Black/Gold, for example, adds a sense of attention to detail that everyone will notice.

Jewel Black/Gold wallpaper, £20 per roll, www.grahambrown.com.



TREND WATCH

More bold patterns to enliven your walls



Beatrice Cyclamen wallpaper, £40 per roll, Laura Ashley, www.lauraashley.com.



Lotus BP 2019 wallpaper, £110 per roll, Farrow & Ball, www.farrow-ball.com.



Refresher Stripe wallpaper by Albany Festival, £15 per roll, www.wallpaperdirect.com.

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Monterey round retro clock with rusty metal face, 78cm (dia), £89, Artisaniti.



Cream distressed clock with Roman numerals, 50 (h) x 32cm (w), £52, Marks & Spencer.



Newgate Kensington clock, featuring a faux second hand, 50cm (dia), £57, The Orchard.

Turn back time

Don't forget to change the clocks at the end of the month and reap the benefits of an extra hour in bed – hoorah!



The Pluto starburst clock with wooden rays on brass-effect lattice, 67cm (dia), £120, Amara.



Lascelles Amboise clock with an antique rust effect, 36cm (dia), £34.95, John Lewis.



Brown leather hanging clock with elegant Roman numerals, £9.99, HomeSense.



Kensington Palace wall clock with Roman numerals, 20cm (dia), £32, Sweetpea & Willow.

We love the subtle nautical styling of this unusual design



Large antique-style France clock with hexagonal frame, 110 (h) x 96cm (w), £209, Majeurs Chesterfield.



Large industrial-style skeleton clock, made in zinc, 67cm (dia), £79.95, Melody Maison.



Rannoch cushion backed with Arran Birch check, 55 (w) x 42cm (d), £60, Voyage Maison.



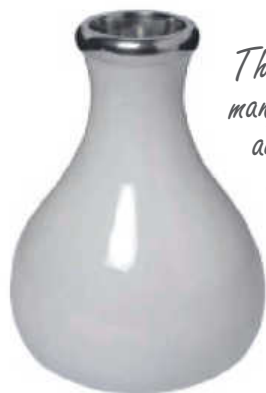
Pharaoh table lamp with elegant tapered base and black shade, 71cm (h), £118.80, Dar Lighting.



Aluminium Excelsior bath with plinth, 1780 (l) x 685 (h) x 760mm (d), £3,108, BC Designs.

In the BLACK

No other colour combination looks quite so striking as black and white, so dare to embrace monochrome in your home



Blanco vase in polished aluminium and white epoxy, 14cm (h), £30, In-Spaces.

This plate is one of many quirky designs available by this talented artist



Cat Mask fine bone china plate, available in three sizes, from £36, Rory Dobner.



Duchess chair in Boulder fabric by Tori Murphy, from £1,235, Content by Terence Conran.



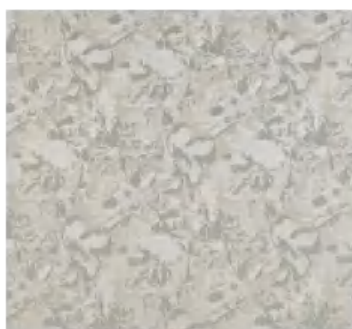
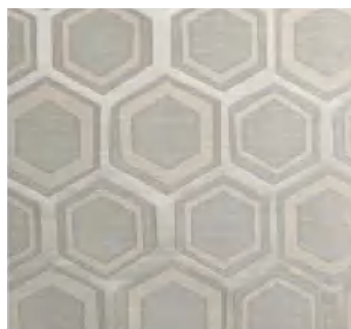
Black ceramic kitchen knife set, includes a 3in, 4in, 5in and 6in knife and stand, £94.95, Rockknife.



Alicia large dark metal console table, 77 (h) x 122 (w) x 40cm (d), £310, Out There Interiors.



Banyan medium-sized mirror with bone inlay frame, 90 (h) x 63cm (w), £245, Loaf.



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NEW-SEASON *style*

If you're looking for decorating inspiration, take your cue from these beautiful trends for the season ahead



Beautiful Deco-style pieces in polished walnut and rich metallic tones work wonderfully alongside plush fabrics in dazzling jewel shades of emerald, sapphire and gold

TREND ALERT

Pure decadence

Glamour is back this season so it's time to invest in indulgent finishes and statement furniture with a nod to Art Deco design

Page 15 Luxurious textiles and shimmering details combine to create an elegant scheme.

Cosmic ceiling light, £99; Brantley table lamp, £39; felt tiles cushion, £19; sequin cushion, £12; silk cushion, £12; mohair stripe throw, £25; faux-fur rug, from £15; Monza table, £69; decanter loop carafe, £89; glass tumbler, £35 for six; all Very.


Right Embrace the glamour of cocktail hour with this eye-catching brass sideboard.

Amber Art Deco sideboard with brass inlay, £499, Atkin & Thyme.



Opposite page Beautiful walnut furniture stands out against an emerald-green wall. Puccini cocktail cabinet, £1,999; Odyssey sofa, from £1,700; Wendy Morrison Jewels rug, £595; all John Lewis.

Left An upholstered bedstead in crushed velvet is the focal point of this sumptuous space. Odeon high-end double bed frame, £1,285; Meath Links mirror, £84; Borgia two-drawer night stand, £629; Borgia five-drawer chest, £1,469; all Barker and Stonehouse.

A bedroom interior featuring a bed with a light-colored duvet and patterned pillows. A small round side table holds a vase with dried flowers and a stack of books. A hanging lamp with a woven shade is positioned above the bed. The wall is a soft grey, and a piece of driftwood is mounted on the wall above the bed. The floor is dark wood.

*Choose understated furniture then layer
with natural textiles and handcrafted
accessories in a pared-back palette of
chalky-white, soft grey and warm stone*

TREND ALERT

Natural elegance

Those looking for an understated style will love this season's natural offerings of tactile finishes and restful hues

Below Simple cream upholstery and chunky knits create a calm mood in the living room. Chelsea love seat, £1,249; bobble knit grey cushion, £35; embroidered linen cushion, £40; woven knit throw, £75; floor lamp, £165; Chelsea ottoman, £679; willow basket, £35 for two; Gloucester side table, £299; From The Flower Garden candle, £20; Victoria glass vase, £35; Mercury tealight holder, £15; all Shabby Chic at House of Fraser.

Above Set the table with glazed stoneware in a tonal palette. Large bowl, £26.95; mug, £6.95; dipping bowls, £8.95 for two; dinner plates, £14.95 each; teapot, £32.95; all from the Nordic Sea range by Broste Copenhagen at Rigby & Mac.

Opposite page Dress your bed in linens with natural tones and simple motifs. Abstract tree double bed linen set, £25; Harmony tree cushion, £12; natural knitted cushion, £14; diamond woven cushion, £14; grey/cream fabric storage basket, £22 for a set of two; grey glaze ceramic bottles, from £8; wooden pendant shade, £32; all Sainsbury's.





Pattern is key this season so don't be afraid to mix and match. Look out for folk-style motifs alongside vivid floral prints for walls and soft furnishings

TREND ALERT

Bohemian rhapsody

Fans of colour will adore this colourful trend that's packed full of bold hues and a lively mixture of folk-inspired pattern

Right Mix and match bedding to provide a riot of colour and pattern.

Tapestry floral bed linen set, £28; Tapestry deer bed linen set, £28; cushions, from £12 each; supersoft faux-fur throw, £50; large vase, £35; small vase, £12; Tapestry mug, £6; Austin bedside table, £149; all Bhs.

Opposite page Make a statement on bedroom walls with this cheerful floral print. Albany Paradise Madagascar wallpaper, £28 per roll, Wallpaper Direct.



Left Give your kitchen an instant update with colourful folk-inspired floral accessories.

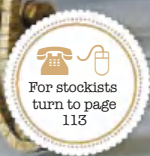
Folk Floral tea towel, £6; Folk Floral pot holder, £6; Folk cake tins, £15 for two; Folk biscuit tin, £9.50; Folk tea, coffee and sugar tins, £12.50 for a set of three; all Marks & Spencer.



TREND ALERT

Classic revival

Embrace the trend for vintage-style designs – toiles, damasks and classic art prints can be found in abundance



Statement soft furnishings offer a simple way to update your scheme. Pre-Raphaelite lady cushion, £9; purple damask cushion, £7; purple textured cushion, £7; all George Home

Fine finishes

Complete the scheme from two of the trends on the previous pages with these key buys

Right Simone table lamp in antique white, £120, Around The House. **Below** Foglia Leaf wooden photo frame, holds a 6 x 4in picture, £14, Puji.



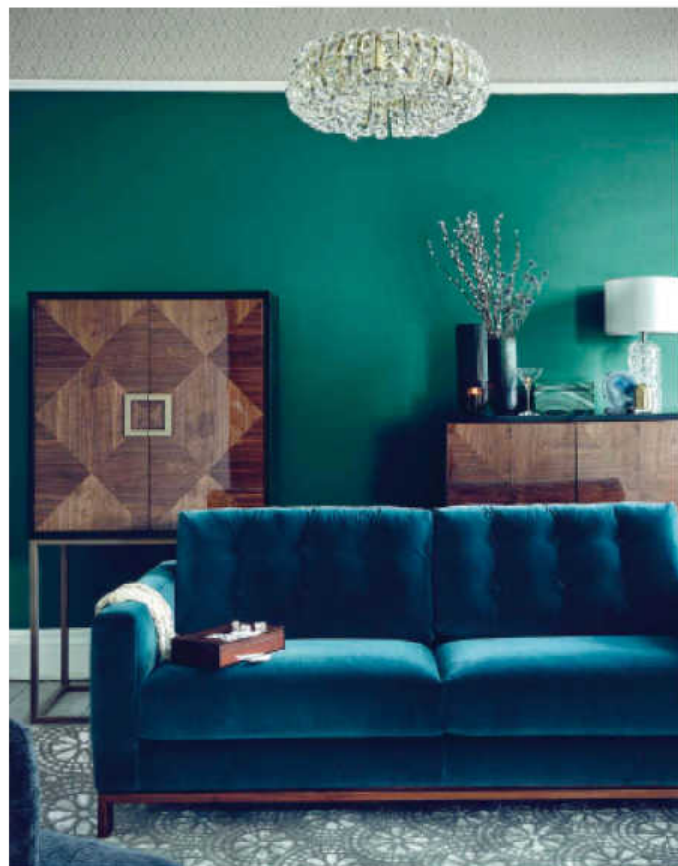
For stockists turn to page 113

Below Arncliffe beige check throw in 100% Shetland wool, from the Naturally collection, 185 (w) x 140cm (d), £75, Bronte by Moon.



'This season's new trends are certain to inspire you – try natural hues or opt for a decadent look with luxurious finishes'

Emma Clayton, Period Homes & Interiors decorating expert



Left Eltham armchair in green Deco Velvet, £749, Marks & Spencer.

Below Aqua velvet cushion, 45 (w) x 45cm (d), £25, House of Fraser.

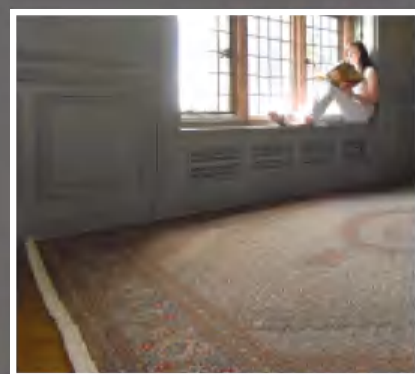
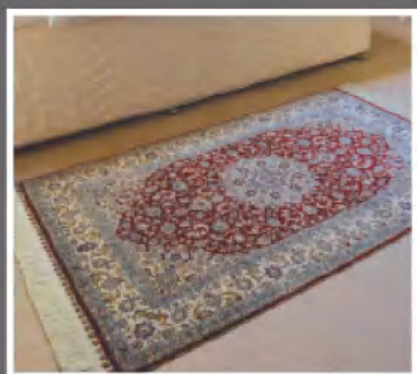


Above Teal Eco Matt Wallpaint, £41.63 for 5 ltrs, Lakeland Paints.
Right LSA Velvet wine glasses in teal, £58 for two, Black by Design.



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REAL HOMES

28 pages of cottage-style living, from a traditional thatched cottage to a converted stable



GARDENING

Late-season colour and interest in Jo and Ian's beautiful garden in the heart of the Kent countryside





AIR OF SERENDIPITY

It was a happy chance that led Annabel Stickland and her family to this 17th-century cottage, which she has transformed with a muted colour palette and a mix of classic furnishings

FEATURE AND STYLING ALI HEATH/NARRATIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BRENT DARBY/NARRATIVES

Having moved back to the UK from Holland with a young baby in the winter of 2005, Annabel and Dave Stickland were keen to find a country home that fulfilled their desire to live in a thriving village community, in a peaceful setting with space for their children to explore, walk the dog and enjoy the freedom of outdoor life. 'I searched endlessly around many Hampshire villages and when I first saw our home, Jonathan's Thatch, I knew that we had found the perfect spot,' says Annabel.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

They instantly fell in love with the façade of the house, a 17th-century timber-framed cottage with red brick infill and thatched roof, which was surrounded by original cobble pathways, a quintessentially English country garden, as well as an ice store and a well. The house, which was built in 1600, is believed by English Heritage to be of historical importance, and the imposing former ship beams in the sitting room allude to the sense of prestige and grandeur that would

have prevailed when the house was originally constructed. The property was extended in the 1700s and in the 1800s was owned by Jonathan Ford, a local blacksmith who gave the house >>

Key facts



THE OWNERS Annabel Stickland lives in the property with her husband Dave, a CFO, their children Joe and Harry, dog Milo and cat Sprout.

THE PROPERTY A four-bedroom timber-framed Grade II-listed cottage in Hampshire, built in 1600.

PURCHASED 2005.

WORK COMPLETED The existing metal-framed windows were replaced with sympathetic double-glazing to counteract the damp and condensation that was threatening the structure of the building, and a two-storey extension was added.



Autumnal pumpkins and gourds add a splash of colour to the back of the family's 17th-century home. The windows and French doors are painted in Green Ground by Farrow & Ball (01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com).



its present-day name. The house was further extended in the 1920s and again in the 1960s when the current kitchen area was added.

Although sturdily built, the house had become tired and was in need of modernisation, but the couple could see there was huge potential to create the family home they had dreamed of. 'The previous owners were like us: the first and last to see the property when it came onto the market,' explains Annabel. 'Serendipity played a huge part in helping to secure the house as despite it being above our budget and us offering below the asking price, the owners were keen to sell to a family who loved it and who would look after and enjoy it as they had as a family.'

LUCKY CHARM

The couple embarked on the move somewhat 'spontaneously and romantically' in the September of 2005 and soon realised the scale and enormity of what they had taken on. 'The house had single-glazing and the internal fabric of the property was suffering from leaks and condensation, which was damaging the timber frame and internal linings,' explains Annabel. A successful case was made to the planning office for the installation >>



Burnt-orange tiles add warmth to the simple Shaker-style kitchen. The units, inherited from the previous owners, are painted in Wimborne White by Farrow & Ball (01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com). The island was made by a local carpenter and the blind fabric is by Ian Mankin (020 7722 0997, www.ianmankin.co.uk).



Below from top Decorative stag heads in varying sizes, available from One Brown Cow (www.onebrowncow.co.uk), add a touch of drama and whimsical fun to the informal kitchen. The red wooden chair was made by Annabel's father. Open shelving in the kitchen

provides the perfect display for Annabel's cherished collection of ceramics by Jane Hogben (www.janehogbenterracotta.co.uk). **Far left** Annabel loves collecting eating apples at this time of year from the trees in a corner of the family's back garden.





Style advice

'Choose the best flooring that you can afford. The quality of wood, stone and carpet can vary hugely in price, so shop around.'

A classic sofa from Sofa.com (0345 400 2222, www.sofa.com) is filled with inviting cushions to create a relaxed and informal atmosphere in the cosy living room.


'The owners were keen to sell to a family who loved the house and who would look after it as they had'

of double-glazing and new sympathetic wooden frames to replace the draughty small-paned metal windows that had been added over the years. 'The new windows have completely transformed both the practical and aesthetic appeal of our home,' explains Annabel. 'When the builders were installing the new windows, cat bones were revealed in the original frames. It is believed they were buried as a type of lucky charm to confer good luck and protect the cottage inhabitants from witchcraft and evil spirits. We respected the tradition and put the bones back. The story is a great one for Halloween suppers and the kids delight in telling their friends.'

SECURING THE FUTURE

The electrics and plumbing were overhauled, new radiators installed, floors and beams restored, a welcoming wood-burning stove fitted in the sitting room and a new kitchen island built to update the kitchen inherited from the previous owners. The


house has also been recarpeted and repainted in calming neutral shades. 'In January 2011, we undertook a two-storey extension to add a boot room and utility room adjacent to the kitchen, and a contemporary en-suite adjoining the master bedroom, which has added a touch of indulgent luxury for Dave and myself,' says Annabel.

Today the house feels open, light and perfectly suited to modern family living. The 17th-century architecture is offset with the cosy trappings of contemporary country style to create a welcoming and lived-in home. Outside Dave has developed his passion for gardening and has created distinct areas for the family to enjoy: a patio for entertaining; a treehouse for the boys; a mini orchard; as well as abundant displays of seasonal flowers at varying times of the year. 'We have created the life we always wanted for our family,' says Annabel, 'and have hopefully helped to retain the integrity and charm of this historic property for generations to come.' 



Above left A rabbit painting from a gallery in Devon sits above a dresser from Nicky Cornell (0845 6040244, www.nickycornell.com) in the living room. The lampshade is by Lush Designs (020 8293 5662, www.lushlampshades.co.uk).

Above An inviting corner of the living room balances a tranquil palette of muted greys and creams with seasonal touches of vivid colour from the garden. **Left** Calming shades of Skylight and Pointing by Farrow & Ball (01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com) offset the wrought-iron bed and patchwork quilt.

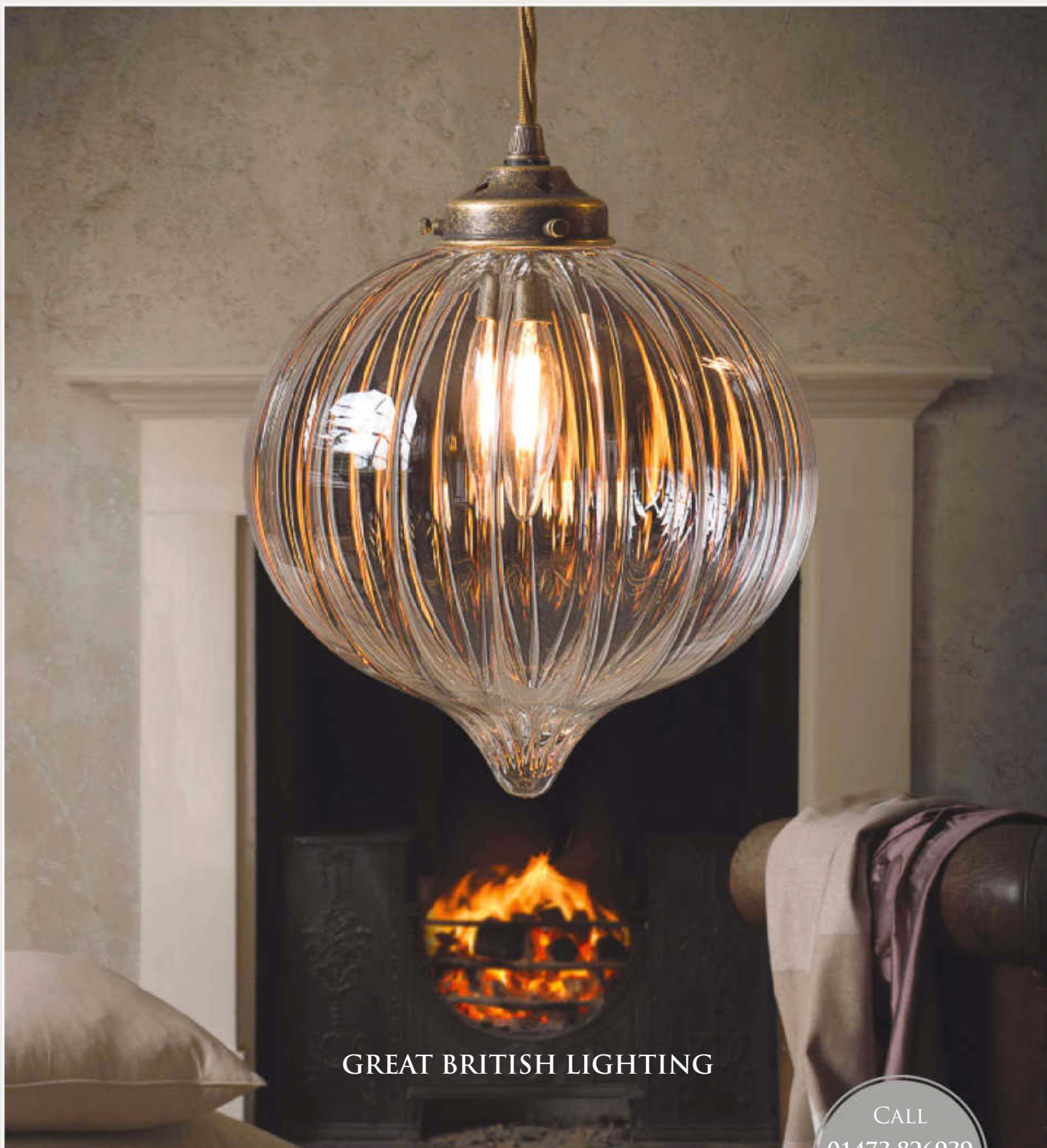


'We have hopefully helped to retain the integrity and charm of this historic property for generations to come'



Striking wallpaper from Cole & Son (020 7376 4628, www.cole-and-son.com) creates a contemporary backdrop for the relaxing en-suite haven. The sink unit was made by Annabel's husband Dave, using a base unit from Antique Pine Imports (01244 300160, www.antiquepineimports.co.uk).

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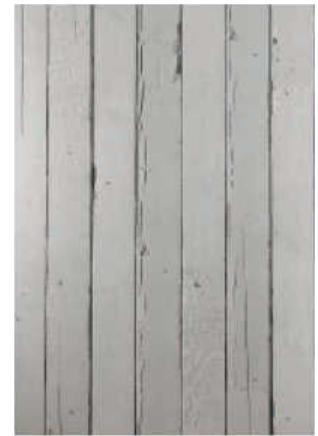
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Watercolour landscape faux-flower centrepiece with amaryllis, hydrangeas and eucalyptus, 61cm (h), £129, Bloom.



Classic-shaped glass bottle with floral design, 33cm (h), perfect for placing beside the bed, £52, John Lewis.



White Scrapwood wallpaper by Piet Hein Eek, other colourways available, £199 per roll, The Orchard.

Made from lightweight acrylic material



Haworth skirted freestanding double-ended bath, 80 (h) x 180cm (w), £820 (excluding taps), Frontline Bathrooms.

GET THE LOOK

Be inspired by Annabel's calming bathroom with striking print wallpaper and practical pieces in soft, neutral shades



Dorset seven-drawer white chest with chrome knobs, 88 (h) x 124 (w) x 45cm (d), £1,150, Laura Ashley.



Rustic bark tealight holder with cut-out heart design and metal hanger, 8cm (h), £6.25, Tittlemouse Gifts.



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Belgravia Crosshead three-hole deck-mounted bath set in chrome, 256mm (h), £319, Crosswater.



Luxurious Supreme Hygro ultra-absorbent 100% cotton towels in Mocha, from £3.50 for a face cloth, Christy.



Get
the
look
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Linsi persuaded her local butcher to sell her a massive wooden butcher's block that now has pride of place in the kitchen. The Sheila Maid airer makes good use of the rising warmth from the Aga.



RISKY BUSINESS

Buying an old stable with no guarantee of obtaining planning permission was a gamble that paid off for Linsi and Ben Halsey

FEATURE ANNABELLE GRUNDY/GAP INTERIORS
PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE/GAP INTERIORS

Linsi and Ben had always admired their current home from their previous house across the river. 'Buying this property was a huge risk, but we'd fallen in love with it, so when it came on the market we just had to follow our hearts,' says Linsi. 'It was complicated, because there was a cottage and a separate stable block on the site, and although we were only interested in the stables, we had to purchase both together.'

The cottage had been converted from an old slaughterhouse in the 1960s, but the Victorian stable block, which included a hayloft and two cart sheds, was unconverted. It had high ceilings, great space and a lovely feel as well as amazing views. Most recently it had been used as a sail loft, and then as a storage facility for books. 'There was a spiral staircase and the walls inside were dry-lined, so it looked more like a warehouse than a >>

Key facts



THE OWNERS Linsi Halsey and her husband Ben share their converted stable with their two cocker spaniels, Phoebe and Hickory-Bear. Ben is a traditional carpenter and joiner, and Linsi is a former financial adviser.

THE PROPERTY A converted stable in Arundel, West Sussex, built around 1850.

PURCHASED 2003.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE The derelict building was cleverly converted into a comfortable two-bedroom home by Ben.

'It was a massive gamble because the building wasn't classified as residential and we had no idea whether we would get permission to change it to a dwelling'



Above from top Ben built the beautiful oak staircase, which is a central feature of the couple's home. The space underneath has been turned into a well-organised walk-in pantry, so the kitchen area stays clutter-free while the outside wall keeps food cool. Linsi and Ben spend a lot of time with their dogs Phoebe and Hickory-Bear in their open-plan kitchen and living area. Comfy armchairs cluster around the fireplace, which is used most days during the cold winter months.

lovely old stable, but from the start we had a vision of how it could be,' says Linsi. 'It was a massive gamble because the building wasn't classified as residential and we had no idea whether we would even get permission to change it to a dwelling.'

JUGGLING ACT

Despite the uncertainty, the couple moved in to the cottage to begin with, crossed their fingers and submitted their plans for the stable block. 'Fortunately, permission was granted to convert it but as we'd taken out a large mortgage to buy both buildings, we couldn't really afford to complete the work,' explains Linsi. 'Luckily we were able to split the title of the stable building from that of the cottage. We then sold the cottage, releasing funds so we could buy a small house to live in while we continued the conversion work. There was a lot of financial juggling, so my experience as a mortgage advisor proved invaluable.'

After a disastrous false start with a local builder, Ben decided he would finish all the building work himself. 'At this point I got a bit worried, and said, "You're a fantastic carpenter and joiner and you know a lot about roofing and tiling, but you're not a builder and there's only one of you!" Unbelievably, he got some manuals and taught himself about current building regulations as well as numerous skills, including specialist leadworking. He definitely has a natural ability and if we ever did a similar project I'd trust him to do everything,' says Linsi.

RELAXED LIVING

Linsi and Ben hardly altered the basic structure of the building, and downstairs they kept the layout unchanged. 'There was a large room that is now our kitchen-diner and main living space, and two smaller rooms that we've made into a utility-cum-shower-room, and a guest bedroom. I like a sort of shabby chic look, with everything feeling very relaxed and easy to live with, and I wanted a farmhouse-style freestanding kitchen,' says Linsi. 'We installed a lovely cream-coloured Aga and chose big travertine floor tiles with riven edges for a rustic look. Ben laid them and I did the grouting with my fingers. I should have worn >>





The table was inherited from the previous owners. Linsi displays her Caroline Zoob china (www.carolinezoob.co.uk) on a dresser found in a junk shop. The couple use a blackboard on the study door as their social calendar.

The upstairs is a 'dog-free' zone where Ben and Linsi can relax. The sofas are from Sofa Workshop (0800 230 0048, www.sofaworkshop.com). The back wall is painted in Bone by Farrow & Ball (01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com).



'The light and views were a big factor in the design of the upper floor – it would have been a crime to have nowhere to sit out and admire the scenery'

gloves because the skin went all rough and I don't think it's ever really recovered! The kitchen is a real multi-purpose flexible space, and as our dogs, Phoebe and Hickory-Bear, aren't allowed upstairs, we spend a lot of time in there.'

RAISING THE ROOF

The major changes are on the first floor. The couple got rid of two ugly dormers and instead raised an entire section of the roof. It was an inspired idea that transformed the bedroom, giving it a lovely vaulted ceiling and an airy feel that is similar to the rest of the first floor. 'We were originally planning an en suite for the bedroom, but we had a rethink after realising we'd lose the symmetry of the room and the fantastic view of the moon through the feature window above our bed. I'm a fan of freestanding

baths so instead we decided to have one in the bedroom and make it all feel a bit like a boutique hotel. Also, I'd already chosen a big double basin for the bathroom, so there's no way we could have fitted a huge bath in that room as well. We had to reinforce the bedroom floor to take the weight, but I love it and it's a real feature.'

The light and the views were a big factor in the design of the upper floor. In the upstairs sitting room, Ben made a glass partition so you can see the landscape as soon as you come upstairs. They changed the two windows into doors, which open onto a beautiful balcony that was also built by Ben. 'As we've got a fairly small courtyard area, it was a way of having extra outside space. We made a big jump to get this place and it would have been a crime to have nowhere high up to sit out and admire the scenery.'

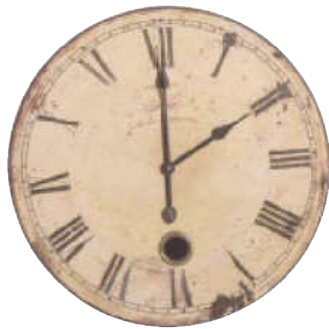


Above left The high vaulted ceiling created the opportunity for a useful mezzanine area over the landing. Known as the 'Ben Den', this is where Ben relaxes and reads or listens to music. **Above** A traditional wooden sledge makes a quirky coffee table for the centre of the upstairs living room. **Left** Ben made the staircase and glass partition in oak. A glass panel set into the ceiling above the stairwell allows natural light right into the centre of the building, and forms a structural part of the floor to the mezzanine. A neutral colour scheme and floorboards washed with diluted white emulsion add to the airy feel.



Above Linsi was keen for the bathroom to have a chic, minimal feel. The chocolate-coloured porcelain tiles came from City Ceramics (01243 775613, www.cityceramics.uk.com). The smart twin basin is by Laufen (www.laufen.co.uk). **Above right** The double-ended freestanding bath from Victoria + Albert (020 7351 4378, www.vandabaths.com) brings an element of luxury to the bedroom. The outside of the bath has been painted in Farrow and Ball's Clunch (01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com). **Right** Linsi wanted to create a Scandinavian flavour in the bedroom. For the floor, she and Ben used wooden planks, washed over with diluted white emulsion, which was then varnished.





Large cream shabby chic French-style wall clock with Roman numerals, 59cm (h), £39, Beau Decor.



Sheila Maid ceiling clothes dryer in redwood pine and cast iron, 145 (l) x 38cm (w), £60, Garden Trading.



Jazz green striped linen/cotton-mix napkins, other colours available, £3.99 each, Linen Me.



Eddingtons Lambourn three-drawer butcher's trolley, 90 (h) x 120 (w) x 60cm (d), £714.99, John Lewis.

GET THE LOOK

Create your own country-style kitchen, inspired by Linsì's traditional, relaxed style



Four-oven cream Aga with two hot plates, 85.1 (h) x 148.7 (w) x 69.8cm (d), from £8,925, Aga.



Traditional rose coffee canister, £5.99, matching tea and sugar canisters also available, Dunelm.



Wooden plate rack wall shelf in pale blue with hanging hooks, 85 (h) x 49 (w) x 23cm (d), £136, The Orchard.



Gray & Willow acacia round food preparation board, 40cm (dia), matching utensils also available, £45, House of Fraser.

FRENCH FANCY

Looking at Lydia Fay's pretty Provencal-inspired home as it is today, it's hard to believe that it started life as a rather uninspiring Eighties bungalow

FEATURE ANNE ARMSTRONG/GAP INTERIORS
PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID PARMITER/GAP INTERIORS



There's a flavour of old Provence circulating around Lydia Fay's revitalised house. Gates open into a lush terraced garden, which encloses a small flight of steps climbing up to a fragrant, flower-decked veranda, where the front door is framed by a charmingly canopied portico. It could be somewhere in the vicinity of Avignon, but it's not. It is in

Bath, tucked away along a narrow lane, amid one of the city's most picturesque quarters. Lydia agrees there is a continental aura about the place. 'That might be due to the light. But this also happens to be the site of a Roman villa, so maybe the history contributes to the atmosphere. That's why I like it so much,' she enthuses.

RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

The house itself looked rather different when Lydia first saw it. 'Originally it was a chalet bungalow dating back only to the 1980s – the youngest house I have ever bought. It was a nice, well-built little place, but I knew I would change it completely,' adds Lydia, a property developer whose stock in trade revolves around breathing new life into more traditional, much older buildings. Whatever the age and style of a property Lydia takes on, her enviable knack of harmonising the pretty and the practical tends to shine through it.

She moved in to this radically transformed house early in 2012, having worked on it for almost a year. 'Previously, it had a lot of wasted space in what >>



Key facts



THE OWNER Lydia Fay, a property developer, who lives and works in Bath.

THE PROPERTY A former 20th-century chalet bungalow that Lydia has imaginatively transformed into a three-storey house, brimming with style and character.

PURCHASED 2011.

WORK COMPLETED Lydia has remodelled the original layout by doubling the square footage, installing upper floors and constructing a front balcony by cutting into the roof to create an intriguing design with a nod to French Provencal style.



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There's a sense of restrained femininity in the drawing room. The marble fire surround came from Mendip Fireplaces (01749 344015, www.mendipfireplaces.co.uk) and the chandelier was from Grasse, a local shop (01225 444260, www.grasse.me.uk).



Home truth

'I am influenced by the work of textile designer Neisha Crosland. Her designs are contemporary with a nod to what has gone before.'



The green chenille Knole sofa was bought from Leather Chairs of Bath (020 7731 1198, www.leatherchairs.co.uk). Lydia tracked down the vintage radiator in a local reclamation yard.

A homemade stone and metal table has been matched with antique chairs in the dining room. Lydia found the French antique wall lights on a shopping trip to nearby Tetbury.



‘The bungalow that used to stand here was a nice, well-built little place, but I knew I would change it completely’

was an L-shaped interior made up of little rooms and corridors. I have doubled the square footage, installed upper floors and created a balcony by cutting into the roof,’ she explains. The resulting interior is wonderfully photogenic, in parts intentionally French-inspired with sophisticated touches embellishing the neutral backdrops. ‘What I like is a home that looks as if it has been lived in for a long time, but it has to have 21st-century practicalities,’ Lydia stresses.

REFINED RUSTICITY

The furnishings are an alluring mix of antique, vintage and contemporary pieces, which highlight Lydia’s flair for imaginative interior design. This is a skill that could be deeply rooted in her genes because her father was also a property developer, and her mother worked for National Trust. ‘As a child, I was constantly being taken to visit stately homes, or lovely old private houses, or to admire country churches, and I was always

re-arranging the furniture at home,’ she smiles. ‘I think my style is still evolving. I’ve always aimed for what I call refined rusticity.’

The main reception rooms of the house are reached via double doors opening off the light-flooded hallway. (Double doors are a defining feature. ‘I love it when there is enough room to have lots of them,’ says Lydia.) Originally two smaller rooms, the drawing room is cosily chic, the glossy blonde parquet flooring evoking the decorative spirit of the 1930s while a contemporary crystal chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The marble fireplace creates a fine central point and the reclaimed chunky radiators give a sense of time having been turned back. The traditionally styled ceiling cornices also add extra substance to the room.

‘Quite a lot of the things in here have been with me for a long time,’ says Lydia, indicating furnishings such as the old Chesterfield sofa, which has been luxuriously recovered in silver >>



velvet, the oversized ruby glass table lamps, and the pretty crystal standard lamp that stands sedately in a corner by the door.

In the dining room (previously the garage), antique chairs flank a DIY table fashioned out of a metal frame topped with a piece of stone, while a pair of antique French gilt wall sconces and an ornamental cherub co-exist with a pair of modern but elegantly silvered chest of drawers. Another pair of double doors provides a link between the dining room and the kitchen where a ceiling lantern pulls in drifts of natural light. The space is arranged with pale hand-painted, Georgian-inspired cabinets fitted opposite a large island unit with a basalt work surface. Lydia called in Wiltshire craftsman Luke McHardy to help her create 'a softened, un-kitchen-like environment'. Accordingly, the eye is easily drawn towards elements such as the distressed mirror glass doors, chosen to conceal the fridge and the freezer, and then upwards in the direction of the Murano crystal glass chandelier.

A SENSE OF CALM

The stairway rising to the upper floors has been covered in a glamorous silky grey carpet – an indulgence that Lydia found impossible to resist – and the mood in the various bedrooms is stylishly calm, though in some areas Lydia has experimented with wallpaper, which along with the textiles and upholstery, breaks up the neutral backdrops. Red >>





'I favour a home that looks like it's been lived in for a long time, but it has to have plenty of 21st-century practicalities'

This page Lydia designed the kitchen with Wiltshire-based company Luke McHardy & Co (01225 751228, www.lukemchardy.com), who handmade the cabinetry. The island work surface is made from basalt bought from Mandarin Stone (01600 715444,

www.mandarinstone.com). The antiqued mirror glass door fronts were supplied by Roman Glass (01225 337433, www.romanglass.co.uk), while the chandelier was found in Venice – 'I go there regularly to source similar chandeliers for clients,' says Lydia.





The antique French bed is upholstered in ticking from Ian Mankin (020 7722 0997, www.ianmankin.co.uk), and the curtain fabric is by Andrew Martin (020 7225 5100, www.andrewmartin.co.uk).

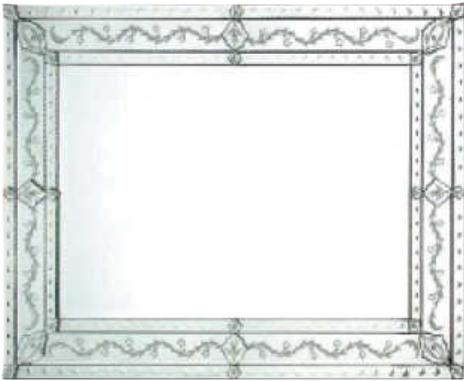
is favoured in the master bedroom where an antique French bed has been upholstered in cherry and ivory traditional ticking fabric, while one guest room harmonises soft green silk with a Clarissa Hulse bronze-hued bed cover. At the top of the house there is fabulously light and airy guest suite organised amid sloping ceilings installed with sleek, conservation-quality roof windows.

A TOUCH OF WIT

Lydia dedicated a lot of time to the transformation of what was once a pleasant but uninspiring bungalow. However, while taste and style are important to her, she rarely aims for what she calls 'overly serious' decor. 'If I can, I like to add a bit of wit here and there,' she confides. Eagle-eyed visitors might spot the quirkiness that sometimes finds its way into Lydia's decorative harmonies – little treasures such as the ceramic Michelin man on display in the drawing room, or the vintage Butler & Wilson crystal spider brooches glinting in the sunlight in the dining room, where they double as ornaments. It's often the little things that linger in the memory after a brand of wall paint, or the name of a fabric, has been long forgotten.



Lydia customised the roll-top bath with a coat of Brinjal paint by Farrow & Ball (01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com). The mosaics are from World's End Tiles (020 7819 2100, www.worldsendtiles.co.uk).



Etched-frame Venetian mirror, 93 (h) x 123cm (w), can also be hung vertically, £260, Exclusive Mirrors.



Equator six-light pendant with crystal glass and polished chrome detail, 170 (h) x 30cm (dia), £478.80, Dar Lighting.



Handmade glass Luna vase in Ocean, 21 (h) x 13 (w) x 13cm (d), £99, The Sofa & Chair Company.



GET THE LOOK

Use sumptuous velvets and glittery accessories to copy Lydia's luxurious living room



Manhattan large sofa in Linwood Omega Grass fabric, 94 (h) x 203 (w) x 104cm (d), £2,249, Multiyork.



Chinoiserie cushion featuring a beautiful image of storks and roses, 40 (w) x 40cm (d), £25, Marks & Spencer.



Isabelle chair in Dolce Oyster with dark legs, 82 (h) x 87 (w) x 97cm (d), £812, Parker Knoll.



Faux-flower arrangement in a glass vase in shades of lemon, green and white, 75cm (h), £125, Adventino.

Handmade using antiqued glass



Tabora large Venetian coffee table in silver, 40 (h) x 160 (w) x 100cm (d), £660, Out There Interiors.



The sitting room is divided into a seating area at one end and a study-cum-music-room at the far end, which is linked to the hall by original double doors. It is large enough to house Lynne's much-loved baby grand piano.



BRING TO LIGHT

Interior designer Lynne Holmes has worked her magic on the heavily beamed cottage she shares with husband John, transforming the once dark property into a light, airy home

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN/NARRATIVES PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON/NARRATIVES



Above from top A 1920s vintage mirror from Sassy Hardwick Furniture (www.sassyhardwick.co.uk) gives a retro edge to one side of the sitting room. The sofa is upholstered in pleated velvet by GP&J Baker (020 7351 7760, www.gpandjbaker.com). **Right** Original bricks cover the floor to the porch, which is lined with built-in benches, leaving room for a neat log store below.



Style advice

'Before starting a decorating mood board, I wait to find a fabric to fall in love with, then I build my colour scheme for the room around it.'



‘Oak beams and wood panels made the house feel homely, but the rooms needed lightening up’

Looking to downsize to a home with character, Lynne and John Holmes found all they were searching for in a thatched cottage in a Sussex village with a friendly pub. ‘At first John was sure nothing needed altering, but as the weeks went by I convinced him otherwise,’ says Lynne. She smiles knowingly and explains how many of her clients go through the same process. ‘You put your existing furniture into a new place and it doesn’t look right. Several of our pieces went to charity shops before we had even moved.’

Lynne’s greatest challenge and, conversely, favourite feature, was the predominance of wood mixed with exposed brickwork. ‘Oak beams, panelling and wood floors made the house feel homely, but the rooms needed lightening up.’ The option to paint the beams in some rooms was discussed but turned down. ‘The cottage has >>



Key facts



THE OWNERS Lynne Holmes, an interior designer, lives in the house with her husband John. **THE PROPERTY** A three-bedroom thatched cottage in Sussex built in 1920 in 17th-century style. **PURCHASED** 2014. **WORK COMPLETED** Lynne and John wanted to preserve the history of the building, which has its roots in the Arts and Crafts movement. No structural changes were made but the walls throughout were painted white to offset the heavy beams, exposed brickwork and wooden floors.

‘The cottage has an interesting history linked to the Arts and Crafts movement in which natural materials play a major role’



an interesting history linked to the Arts and Crafts philosophy in which natural materials play a major role,’ says Lynne. ‘We were keen to respect the architect Reginald Fairfax Wells, who built 70 of these Tudor-style cottages for his Bohemian friends. He took his quest for back-to-nature authenticity to extremes; denying the owners of electricity, but at least he made sure the ceilings were a decent height. He also installed wells in every garden. We liked what he stood for.’

SEEING EYE TO EYE

Painting the walls white and keeping rooms clutter free, Lynne’s schemes inject vitality and avoid the obvious

choice of chintzy florals. Instead she chose contemporary designs in soft zingy colours for the downstairs rooms, while romantic French toile and feminine wallpapers have been used for the bedrooms. ‘I am essentially a girly girl and I love roses and pretty things,’ says Lynne. ‘Interestingly, I was going to have an all-grey check fabric to cover the sofa in the dining room, but John persuaded me to go for pink instead.’ Fortunately the couple nearly always see eye to eye on aesthetic matters. ‘I choose and he agrees,’ says Lynne with a twinkle in her eye. ‘He is very affirming.’

She confesses to experiencing one wobble when John announced he had ordered a huge Napoleon painting from an American art website. ‘He said the wall in the hall called for an ancestral portrait. I was sure he was right, but as neither of us owned such a thing, the portrait of Napoleon became our substitute. It fills the hall wall space with colour and dignity and contrasts with the dark oak panels. I have even grown to like it,’ she says with a grin.

The couple’s best joint design decision was the kitchen, where they installed a new island unit in bleached oak, creating much-needed extra storage and a useful breakfast bar. The kitchen/dining room is their favourite room. ‘I love being able to fling open the doors to the garden during the summer months,’ says Lynne. ‘Sharing breakfast time together on the decked terrace is brilliant and it is a great space for parties. The cottage is brilliantly suited to our lifestyle and is our forever home.’ 





Above from top The island designed by Lynne Holmes of LH Interiors (01798 817552, www.lhinterior.co.uk) was made by Aspect Kitchens (01483 277166, www.aspectkitchens.com). The blinds are in Rosa Alba by Nina Campbell (020 7225 1011, www.ninacampbell.com). John picked out pink gingham from Chatham-Glyn for the sofa (020 8558 7705, www.chatham-glynfabrics.co.uk), much to Lynne's delight. **Left** The oak table from Taskers (01254 236262, www.taskers.com) was chosen to go with the island unit. The curtains are in Swinsty Chalk by James Brindley (01423 507774, www.jamesbrindleyfabrics.com), made by LH Interiors.



Top Encapsulating the feminine style that is one of Lynne's hallmarks is the guest bedroom with a cream painted French bed backed with a blue and white toile La Musardiere wallpaper from Colefax and Fowler (020 7244 7427, www.colefax.com). **Above** Celebrating Lynne's passion for pretty designs, the wall behind the

bed in the main bedroom is papered in a riot of Darcy roses, with Roman blinds in Fairmont Linen, also both by Colefax and Fowler. The bedside lamp is by Christopher Guy (www.christopherguy.com). **Right** Enveloped by a sloping roof, at night the bathroom is bathed in candlelight from a floorstanding candelabra.



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Alma mottled glass table lamp from the Shabby Chic range, 58.5 (h) x 32cm (w), £120, House of Fraser.



Cranbourne check pure wool cushion in blue and cream, 43 (w) x 43cm (d), £42, Laura Ashley.



No2 candle with oriental spice scent of cedar, jasmine and amber, comes with a metal display lid, £40, Christy.



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Primrose double divan upholstered in sand moleskin, 137 (w) x 201 (l) x 123cm (h), £745, Button & Sprung.

GET THE LOOK

Team toile prints with classic furniture to recreate Lynne's timeless bedroom



Provencal rattan chair on a mahogany frame, 97 (h) x 53 (w) x 48cm (d), £318, The French Bedroom Company.

We love this subtle eye motif designed by queen of pattern Allegra Hicks



Eyes white cotton bedspread designed by Allegra Hicks, 250 (w) x 260cm (d), £59, Made.com.



French-inspired Limoges bedside cabinet with three drawers, 70 (h) x 45 (w) x 40cm (d), £229, Fishpools.



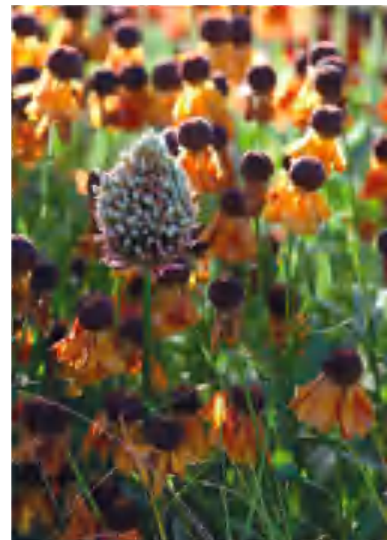
La Chasse traditional French toile of Diane the Huntress in powder blue on white cotton, £52 per m, Fabrics & Papers.





TEXTURAL SWAY

The gardens at Long Meadow in Kent are a shimmering meld of colour and form, offering real inspiration for creating late-season interest



'There are so many little hidden and peaceful areas: people like sitting on the patio or by the pond and looking up through the colours in the beds – it's so serene and relaxing'

Describing the gardens at Long Meadow in the little hamlet of Wellers Town near Chiddingstone in Kent as a contemporary cottage garden only comes part way to defining the ebullient scene that greets the visitor. The eye is drawn from the wafting swathes of ornamental grasses and late-season perennials to the borrowed landscape of parchment fields beyond. With planting designed to peak late-summer through autumn, there is a progressive crescendo of hues and textures in a rhythmical display.

A SEAMLESS CONNECTION

The third-of-an-acre sloping garden spread around a Victorian cottage was designed for owners Jo and Ian Peel by Surrey garden designer Nic Howard four years ago. 'Although we had glorious vistas, we didn't have many plants and I was aching to brighten it up with flowers,' explains Jo, as we stroll around together. The thinking behind the design was to connect the garden with the wider landscape beyond, with sweeping grass shapes to unify the levels of the garden and create an easier gradient that draws the eye across the plot.

Particular consideration needed to be given to the heavy clay soil and blending the dominant drive and garage into the design. Mushroom compost was dug through the soil to break it up and make it workable, while a herbaceous border with taller choices, such as *Eupatorium dubium* 'Baby Joe', *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Malepartus', *Aster x frikartii* 'Monch', *Agastache* 'Blue Fortune' and ephemeral *Verbena bonariensis*, help to camouflage the garage.

Being on a slope, the vista from the patio, which stretches out from the kitchen and is regularly used for alfresco dining, cleverly gives the impression of a sunken garden with hidden areas behind the billowing flowers and foliage. Benches are placed to take in views both inside and outwards from the garden. A small copse of three existing *Betula jacquemontii* near the top of the garden is underplanted with richly toned echinacea combined with *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Orange Field', a key plant in the whole scheme, with these russet and crimson colours then carried through with repeated plantings down

the garden. Taller perennials and grasses have been used in the lower beds to help balance the slope, while a series of striking silvery-grey oak pergolas at the bottom of the garden lend weight as well as a contemporary edge to the design.

JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Although a relatively small garden, the way it is planted allows a sense of journey and discovery as you progress down past sloping borders, pausing to admire the planting combinations of massed dainty geraniums, salvias, hemerocallis, fiery *Helenium* 'Moerheim Beauty', *Penstemon* 'Firebird' and fireworks from spires of *Liatris spicata* 'Alba'. Any gaps that occur are replenished with similar choices, including *Alchemilla mollis* (lady's mantle), *Heuchera* 'Palace Purple' and sedums, which do particularly well here, along with annuals such as papery dancing cosmos that catch delightfully in every breeze.

The resulting palette is not only beautiful to look at, it also has the added advantage of filtering the wind, turning a disadvantage into an advantage as the visual effect of movement is one of the charms of this style of planting. Overall the scheme is unified, as the colour palette is kept simple and the planting is consistently dense.

At the bottom of the garden you reach a sunken dell with a small wildlife pond edged in dry marginal planting and a softly painted summerhouse shaded by a weeping willow Jo planted when they first moved to the property. Cool and restful, the grassy dell offers a contrast from the visual cacophony but also affords wonderful views looking up through the >>

Previous pages Shasta daisies add light to the garden; cosmos dance around the base of *Betula jacquemontii* against a foil of shimmering grasses.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left A bench is placed to take in the view across the border; *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Orange Field' harmonise with

echinacea; spires of *Allium sphaerocephalon* pop up among massed *Helenium* 'Moerheim Beauty'; seed-grown cosmos add great value in the borders; a series of pergolas give definition to the bottom of the garden; Jo and Ian have taken to gardening with great enthusiasm; textural borders fringe the patio.



'It's amazing how the garden goes from nothing then pops up again in spring. At first it's neat and tidy, but it quickly grows to become huge and spectacular'

splendour to the house. Plantings of *Lysimachia* 'Snow Candles' light up the space with their spires of tiny white flowers, while tufts of *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Goldtau' also add a decorative touch. An area still being developed is a small adjacent woodland where there are plans to introduce meandering pathways.


A NATURAL TALENT

Jo handmakes costume jewellery from home with her business JoJo De Bulmer (www.etsy.com) and clearly has an eye for colour and design. Once Nic had initially created the garden, her natural talent has shone through as her confidence developed in plant knowledge and care. 'I've realised over the four years that plants don't always grow the way you want them to. At first I was scared to touch or move them, but now through learning by experimenting I've realised I can do it. For instance underneath the beech trees, which take moisture and nutrients from the soil, some of the plants such as the monarda and heleniums haven't done so well, so we've added more Shasta daisies and achillea that like the dry soil.'

With more time to spend in the garden since Ian retired, the couple have taken on the garden together and continue the care and evolution of the planting. 'It's amazing how the garden goes from nothing after being cut down in late autumn, then pops up again in spring. At first it's neat and tidy, but then everything grows so quickly to become huge and spectacular,' Jo enthuses.

The couple opened their garden for the first time this year through the National Gardens Scheme and hope to do so again next year, adding another dimension to their labour. 'We wanted it to look really beautiful, so we planted lots of pots on the patio and we have plenty of seats for people to take time in the garden. There are so many little hidden and peaceful areas: people enjoy sitting on the patio to take in the views, or by the pond and looking up through the colours in the beds – it's so serene and relaxing,' comments Jo.

Visitors couldn't fail to come under the spell of this garden. While it has many traditional cottage garden elements, it has been given a contemporary twist with the modern planting that is designed to peak late season when other gardens are flagging.

• Long Meadow, Chiddingstone, Kent TN8 7BQ.
www.ngs.org.uk 



GROWER'S GUIDE...

Echinacea; coneflower

Be inspired by Jo and Ian's late-season planting

This striking perennial with daisy-like flowers is a native of North America. It has pink or white flowers, each measuring up to 15cm across and is long flowering. The root is commonly used in herbal remedies for helping to build the immune system.



GROWING NOTES

- Hails from dry prairies and open woodland.
- Fully hardy.
- Grows in deep, fertile, well-drained soil.
- Needs full sun but will tolerate some shade.
- Easy care.
- Plant in spring.
- Cut back the stems after flowers fade for more blooms.
- Leave some dark cones for winter.

Left, from top Pale pink roses add a touch of traditional cottage style; sitting out on the patio in the late-season sun is delightful among the textural meld; clouds of fennel lend a feathery touch to the borders.

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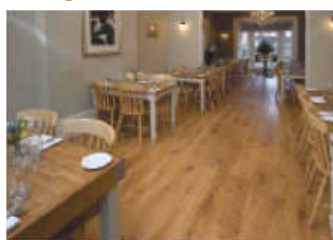
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OCTOBER

In the garden



This month: admiring the changing season, preparing for winter and snapping up a late-summer bargain

Leigh Clapp, *Period Homes & Interiors* gardening expert

I love the autumnal colours that bring a new dimension to the garden at this time of year. Whether it's a season of mists and quiet beauty or intensely rich colours against clear blue skies, either is gorgeous with its reflective mood. Although leaf colour is greatest when the days are sunny and the nights frosty, I love the softly lit days, too, and the sound of leaves crunching underfoot. Work in the

garden slows down to just needing a gentle tidy up and then cutting back after the first frosts start to blacken down the flowers. I like to keep some leaves under plants as mulch and also as cover for wildlife. To have some skeletal interest through winter and for food for the birds

I also leave some seedheads in the border, enjoying their brown translucency when backlit.

When I can tear myself away from the beauty of the season, it's on my to-do list to give the greenhouse benches and windows a good scrub – a job that I always find rather therapeutic. The other practical task that's waiting to be ticked off is to prepare and enrich the soil in the borders by digging in compost and manure now to make spring planting easier.

Late-season bargain

I can't resist browsing nurseries at this time of the year – you can often get some great bargains and there are some lovely late-season perennials that will brighten up a corner. While the soil is still warm, it's also a great time to plant container-grown shrubs, as well as bulbs such as daffodils and alliums.



If you get ground frosts of -5°C or below it is best to **lift your dahlias**. Here's how... **1** When tops have died back, cut down foliage and lift the tubers using a fork. **2** Trim stems to 15-20cm. **3** Wash the tubers then dry them upside down for a few weeks. **4** Trim off fine roots and place tubers in shallow wooden boxes with peat-free compost, leaving the crown exposed. **5** Store in a cool, dry place.



Essential tools

Mid-handed shrub rake, 58cm (l), £14.95; hand-held bulb planter with depth marker and serrated edge, £14.95, both endorsed by the RHS; both Burdon & Ball.

Date
for your
diary

Art in the Garden sculpture exhibition runs until 19 October at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Hampshire (www3.hants.gov.uk/hilliergardens).

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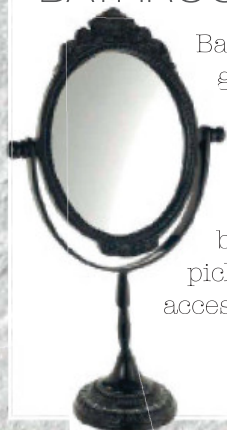
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At Home

Living room special • Focus on lighting • Bathrooms and kitchens • Buyers' guide



BATHROOMS



Bathrooms get dark and moody for autumn with sumptuous roll-top baths and our pick of the best accessories

KITCHENS

Discover the new kitchen design trend for colour-blocking, plus vintage-style home buys and the prettiest blue paint for a period home



BUYERS' GUIDE

All you need to know about buying a range cooker, including expert advice and our round-up of the best models





The space at the back of the apartment is used as a dining room and study area, complete with a small vintage desk. Robert inherited the set of Paul McCobb spindle-back chairs from his architect grandfather and painter grandmother.

A black and white photograph of a dining room. In the foreground, a round wooden dining table is set with a bowl, candles, and other items. Several wooden chairs are tucked under the table. To the right, a dark wooden desk or table is cluttered with books, a lamp, and other objects. A large window in the background lets in bright light, and a bookshelf filled with books is visible on the right side of the frame.

MASTERCLASS IN...

MONOCHROME

A striking colour scheme such as black and white can help to unify a space to create a cohesive look, explains Hilary Robertson, author of *Monochrome Home*



An angular L-shaped linen sofa defines the living area.
Below A metal office locker is an ideal spot for the bar.



The apartment's many original features have been enhanced with a monochrome colour scheme and mid-century Scandinavian-inspired furnishings.



A combination of wood, leather and linen add a layer of warmth, functioning as a substitute for colour or pattern


Architects seem to have an ambiguous relationship with colour, preferring to deal with form, function and texture over decoration. Partners in life and work Stefanie Brechbuehler and Robert Highsmith of architectural firm Workstead will happily admit that they are no exception. When Indian clients accustomed to bright colours sheepishly asked them to add some bright hues to their interior scheme, they suggested integrating brass details rather than use any paint shade other than a neutral. Naturally, when they found their own home, a first-floor apartment in a Brooklyn Brownstone in New York that was painted blue, pink and yellow, their first instinct was to wash the whole thing in white emulsion. Given that the space is three main rooms that flow into each other, limiting the colour palette made perfect sense; the two sets of dividing doors are often left open creating a view all the way through from the street elevation to the garden.

While the Workstead partners relish the 19th-century vernacular details – mouldings, high ceilings, sash windows and two marble fireplaces – they have relied on a few modern Scandinavian and mid-century pieces to update the look and feel of the interior to something that is younger and hipper: there are dining chairs by Eames and Nelson, collections of found objects, abstract paintings and prints and



Robert's piano is both a functional element and a decorative object, which complements the arrangement of framed monochrome illustrations.

their own sculptural lighting designs, inspired by vintage industrial elements. Favourite materials – a combination of wood, leather and linen – add a layer of warmth to the look, functioning as the team's substitute for colour or pattern.

Robert's taste for Scandinavian design has its roots in his upbringing. His architect grandfather and painter grandmother filled their house with classic mid-century designs, which he inherited while still at art school (apparently resulting in a precociously stylish dorm room). An immersion in this aesthetic informs the partners' approach to creating their own products, which ensure that they can always stamp their signature look on future projects. They recently invented their own version of the classic Safari chair, which comes in leather or canvas combined with a cherry, oak or walnut structure. Despite a predilection for the quieter side of the colour wheel, Stephanie and Robert have dared to experiment with Farrow & Ball's Hague Blue at a recent project, and secretly look forward to clients with similarly strong ideas. 



Extract taken from *Monochrome Home* by Hilary Robertson with photographs by Pia Ulin, published by Ryland Peters & Small. *PH&I* readers can buy the book for £18 (usual price £25) including postage and packaging by telephoning Macmillan Direct on 01256 302699 and quoting reference GLR CN4.



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20 IDEAS FOR...

Soft furnishings

Sumptuous sofas, desirable chairs and a sprinkling of gorgeous cushions, footstools and ottomans will make your living room a beautifully comfortable and welcoming place



Cocktail hour

This original cocktail chair, £595, from Florrie & Bill, has been covered in Abigail Borg's beautiful Laburnum fabric from the Botanical range. The chair has a coiled sprung seat with horsehair stuffing and the wooden legs have been carefully repolished to maintain their natural finish. www.florrieandbill.com; www.abigailborg.com.



3

SNUGGLE IN STYLE

Update the living room with an array of seasonal cushions to snuggle in style. Choose from chunky knits, jumbo cords and painted designs to add texture and colour to the living room. All Good Things cushion, round hedgehog cushion and watercolour squirrel cushion, £8 each; stag head ornament, £12; fox ornament, £10; all from George Home. 0800 952 3003, www.george.com.



2

COUNTRY CLASSIC

This opulent floral fabric, £44.90 per sq m, from the new Arcadia collection by Linwood, draws its inspiration from some of the country's best-loved gardens, including Wakehurst (pictured) and Winterbourne. 01425 461176, www.linwoodfabric.com.



4

◀ MID-CENTURY CURVES

The Mimi two-seater sofa is 132cm wide and has appealing, comfortably-rounded edges with a stylish tight buttoned back. The tapered legs give it a distinct 1950s retro air. Available in Powder Blue wool fabric, it costs £479 from Swoon Editions, 020 3137 2464, www.swooneditions.com.

>>



5

MAKE A FEATURE

We love the idea of having a stand-out 'feature chair' in the living room. This is the Taynton armchair by Wesley Barrell, shown in Fantasy Garden by Sanderson, £1,925. www.wesley-barrell.co.uk.

6

Sitting in splendour

A new armchair is a great way to perk up a living room without going for the full-on redesign that a sofa can entail. The Knox armchair, £665, is from the classic New England range by Furniture Village, shown in Merchant Linen in Cloud, with Cal leather piping. 0800 804 8879, www.furniturevillage.co.uk.

7 *Cheer up winter homes with some sunny colours: yellow and orange shades are perfect partners for greys and neutrals. These are small square cushions in cotton and linen, 43 (w) x 43cm (d), £70 each, by Fermoie. 01672 513723, www.fermoie.com.*



8

SITTING PRETTY

The range of footstools and ottomans from Willow & Hall is perfect to make the most of small spaces or to fill the gaps in larger rooms. Dauntsey footstool in Texture Chenille Duck Egg, from £469. 0845 468 0577, www.willowandhall.com.





9 ANGLED DESIGN

This Martini armchair, £395, from Atkin & Thyme, will suit any formal scheme, or would look equally at home as a bedroom chair. It's upholstered in pale grey 100% wool, with a subtle pinstripe, to help give a warm, textured feel to a room. 0844 409 9834, www.atkinandthyme.co.uk.



10 *PH&I says... Always try before you buy any type of new seating for your living room – regardless of how comfortable it might look. There's a world of difference between high-back and low-back models, firm foam or squashy fibre and feather cushions.*

12



11 SIMPLY ELEGANT

Tall floor-standing wooden lamp with cream drum shade, £90, Next, www.next.co.uk.

◀ SHADOW BOXING

The wood and rattan lantern, £12, from Sainsbury's, will cast flickering shadows. www.sainsburys.co.uk.

11



>>



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13

HERITAGE LOOKS

The Barra sofa from Marks & Spencer, with its pretty turned hardwood legs and fixed covers, offers something for everyone as it's available in 10 different leathers and a choice of 92 fabrics. Prices from £999. 0333 014 8000, www.marksandspencer.com.



Classic wingback chair, £995; Wallis the dog cushion, £25; House Print cushion, £25; blue woven throw, £75; blue printed vase, £25; Cody oak table lamp in cream, £95; all from the Dickens & Jones Home range at House of Fraser. 0345 602 1073, www.houseoffraser.co.uk.

14



15

SOFT TOUCH

This chair is perfect for adding a sumptuous touch of warmth to your living room for autumn. Chantal velvet armchair in Blue, also available in Damson and Burnt Orange, £885, Oka, 0844 815 7380, www.okadirect.com.



► MULTI-PURPOSE

The Sussex ottoman in Dove Grey from Within is flat enough to use as a table or a footstool. It measures 40 (h) x 90 (w) x 90cm (d) and costs £475. 020 7087 2900, www.withinhome.com.

16





17

SHADES OF GREY

Grey is a firm favourite for interior decor as it works well with so many other colours. Aubrey sofa, £1,070; scatter cushions, from £15; Leaf rug, £190; Florence coffee table, £340; all Debenhams, 0844 561 6161, www.debenhams.com.



BUTTON BACKED

For a neat, tailored look, choose a sofa with fixed covers. Slender arms and tapered legs contribute to the classic look of this fuss-free design. Elton blush lustre velvet sofa with almond-stained solid wood legs, £699, also available in linen weave, West Elm. www.westelm.co.uk.

18

Sink into comfort

Sometimes a family living room needs more than a big sofa and a single chair, which is where the sofa and love-seat combination is a real winner. The Pudding Sofa, £1,195; and Love Seat, £995, both from Loaf are built with a solid beech frame, and have blasted oak legs for a slightly distressed, casual look. The feather-wrapped foam seat cushions have the

best of both worlds – slouchy and comfy, but needing minimal plumping and preening. 0845 468 0697, www.loaf.com.




19

▲ CLASSIC GOOD LOOKS

The buttoned back detail of this tan leather Windsor chair, £1,113, from Delcor, is the ideal choice for teaming with a classic Chesterfield sofa. 0191 237 1303, www.delcor.co.uk.



20



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SOFTLY DOES IT

A comfortable bathroom doesn't have to be shiny and new – a tub in front of a fire will add a real sense of style to an antique-filled home.

Accessorise with plenty of soft towels from the luxury Egyptian cotton range from Soak & Sleep. On stool: face cloth in Glacier Grey, hand towel in Nutmeg, bath towel in Mulberry, bath sheet in Smoke. Prices from £2.75. www.soakandsleep.com.



IN THE BATHROOM

Bathe in front of a fire, invest in a polished statement bath or stock up on beautifully fragranced accessories



Take a stand

Crisp white sanitaryware and brass finishings really pop against a dramatic painted backdrop. We're loving the understated luxury of this porcelain Empress console on a polished metal frame that doubles as a towel rail. It measures 97 (h) x 100 (w) x 54cm (d) and costs £1,550, excluding the taps, by Catchpole & Rye. 01233 840840, www.catchpoleandrye.com.



Mirror mirror...

However many mirrors you might have on the wall in your bathroom, it's always useful to have a little freestanding one, which can be angled for close-up inspection of make-up. This black design with vintage styling is a steal at just £15 from Sainsbury's. Pair with the ornate matching candelabra, £40. 0800 636262, www.sainsburys.co.uk

MAKE A STATEMENT

It's often the little details that make us choose one item for our homes over another, and with freestanding baths it's the feet that can make all the difference. The Acanthus Empire cast-iron bath, £4,495, by Hurlingham has intricately cast feet and a polished exterior – the designers tell us it takes three days to achieve this level of lustre. 01400 263310, www.hurlinghambaths.co.uk.



Hooking it up

Knobs, hooks and pulls from the Hardware collection by Rowen & Wren will freshen up a dreary bathroom. Prices from £7. 01932 847538, www.rowenandwren.co.uk.



Candlelight can transform your bathroom into an indulgent, relaxing space. Just make sure you also include plenty of practical lighting – spotlights on a dimmer enable you to alter the mood at the twist of a knob.

3 OF THE BEST FRAGRANCED ACCESSORIES



Queen Cleopatra's Secret Ville de Fleurs candles: Mini, 20 hours' burn time, £15; Midi, 45 hours' burn time, £22; Etsy.



Frosted Ginger & Cassis hand wash and hand lotion, £12.50 for the set, Marks & Spencer.



Noir diffuser with an exotic amber, mandarin and sandalwood fragrance, £35, The White Company.



TRADITIONAL VALUES

A London home has been given a smart new en-suite bathroom using fixtures and fittings that offer a contemporary twist on traditional style

When the owners of this property in south-west London redecorated their master bedroom, they wanted a new en-suite bathroom to match. Designer Laura Northeast from West One Bathrooms used a soft taupe colour palette to create an understated scheme that oozes quiet sophistication.

Laura cleverly used the chimney breast as the position for a large wall-hanging double basin unit, which gives it prominence and stand-out, despite its simple design. A splashback of tiny mosaics provides interest and texture. 'We looked for functional pieces,

The brief:

To design an elegant yet functional en-suite bathroom, which will provide a seamless flow from the master bedroom.

finding a unit with maximum storage so the overall look of the room is clean and uncluttered,' explains Laura. While the basin unit is undoubtedly a feature, the bath is the focal point in the room with its contemporary take on traditional style, proudly backed by a large gilt-framed mirror. Meanwhile, a separate shower cubicle blends unobtrusively into the background, courtesy of a sleek glass enclosure. Dark brown accessories add warmth to the overall look.

• To find out more about West One Bathrooms call 0333 011 3333 or visit www.westonebathrooms.com.

The chimney breast has been cleverly incorporated into the design of the room



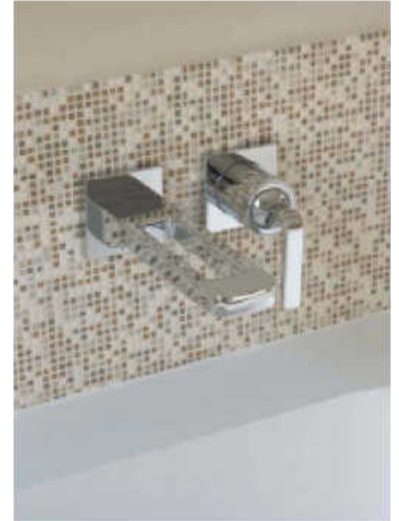
A back-to-wall WC with a concealed cistern (above) gives the separate cloakroom a streamlined look, and provides a useful storage ledge. The **bath** (left) is by Victoria + Albert, all from West One Bathrooms.



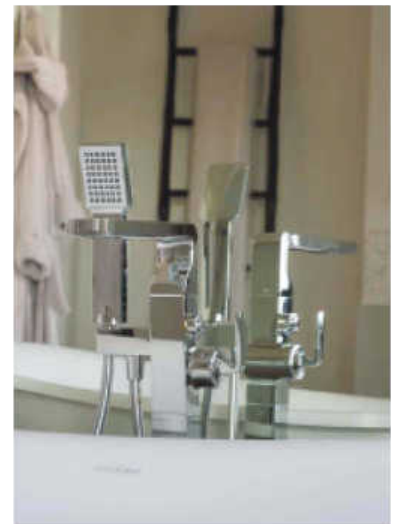
Laura teamed an Antonio Lupi **vanity unit** and worktop with a **mirror, light** and **WC** by Duravit. The **shower enclosure** with its unobtrusive glass **cubicle** is by Majestic showers and the **shower head** is by Hansgrohe, all from West One Bathrooms.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Mix and match traditional sanitaryware with modern fittings



The Kelly Hoppen Zero 1 **two-hole tap** by Crosswater from West One Bathrooms lends a spa-like quality to the bathroom.



The Kelly Hoppen Zero 1 **bath and shower mixer tap**, also by Crosswater, borrows its style from a traditional standpipe that has been updated for the 21st century.



‘We looked for functional pieces with plenty of storage that would complement the customer’s colour scheme in the bedroom’

the Longest Stay .com

FURNISH THE HOME YOU NEVER WANT TO LEAVE



Focus on...

Interior lighting

Brighten up dark corners and give your room schemes a new lease of life with lamps, wall lights and pendants

Lighting can make or break a room and is key to a successful scheme. Decorative bases, patterned shades or serenely simple, the choice is yours and dependent on your room and style. The basic rule of thumb is that if you have printed wallpaper and patterned upholstery, opt for a plain lamp; otherwise choose brighter shades and designs.

The dilemma these days is which choice of bulb. Tungsten is now only available for appliances, such as fridges and cooker hoods. Halogen is energy-efficient and suits chandeliers, dimmers and touch lamps. Energy-saving bulbs are ideal for floor and table lamps and bathroom lighting, while LED is excellent for energy saving – use them for spotlights, nightlights and children's rooms as they don't get as hot as other types.

GLOW GETTER

Your central source of lighting should be versatile enough to provide illumination for the entire room or used with a dimmer to create a glowing, architecture statement.

Cranton pendant with 140 overlapping bone china discs, £2,399, Original BTC.



3



Shear wall-mounted task light, suitable for kitchens and bedrooms, 40 (h) x 46cm (w), other colours available, £435.60, Bert Frank.



4



SPARKLE AND SHINE

A chandelier will provide an eye-catching focal point in a living room, bedroom or hallway.

Ivory distressed metal chandelier with crystal droplets, 50 (h) x 56 (w) x 56cm (d), £122.95, Melody Maison.

VINTAGE STYLE

Use task lighting to focus on a specific area, such as a sofa in the living room where you like to curl up with a book.

Jensen floor light with tripod legs and oversized brushed metal shade, 147cm (h), £199, Marks & Spencer.

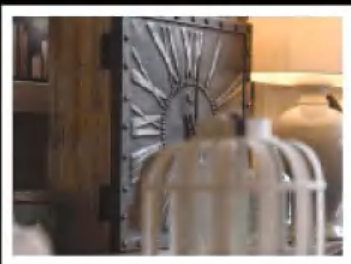


Furniture, food and fabulous things

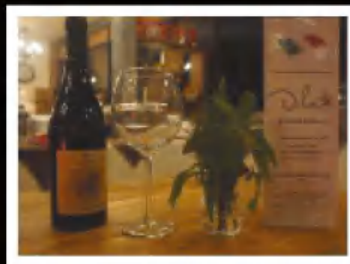


Global Interiors is a family run business with more than 20 years' experience in the furniture industry. We specialise in solid wood furniture, and take great pride in manufacturing our very own ranges with a chunky rustic feel. Be it a shelf, or a fully fitted kitchen, talk to us about how we can help you achieve the home of your dreams. We have 2 showrooms, one at Botany Bay, Chorley, and a newly extended showroom in Bolton, which is now the home of one of the most amazing furniture stores in the North West, with a unique range of furniture, home accessories and giftware.

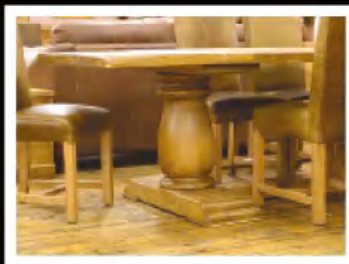
And if all this wasn't enough, our Bolton showroom is now home to Dolce, a superb fully licensed Italian bar, café and grill where you can enjoy a coffee, a fantastic meal or glass of wine in a truly wonderful homely surroundings. And to add a little twist, all the furniture in the restaurant has been handmade by ourselves and is also for sale! Come and see why we are the talk of the town.



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Tel: 01204 775655

Focus on...

Interior lighting

'Layer your lighting to create the perfect ambience. The starting point should always be the walls. They provide a second layer for table and floor lamps, while spotlights are important for illuminating specific areas such as worktops in kitchens'

Diane Simpson, lighting buyer at John Lewis

SIMPLY CHIC

Team a pared-back industrial chic pendant light and table lamp with dark walls for a dramatic look (paint just one wall if you're worried about such a bold statement).

6

Hazel ceiling light, £35;
Plato table lamp, £150;
both Pooky.



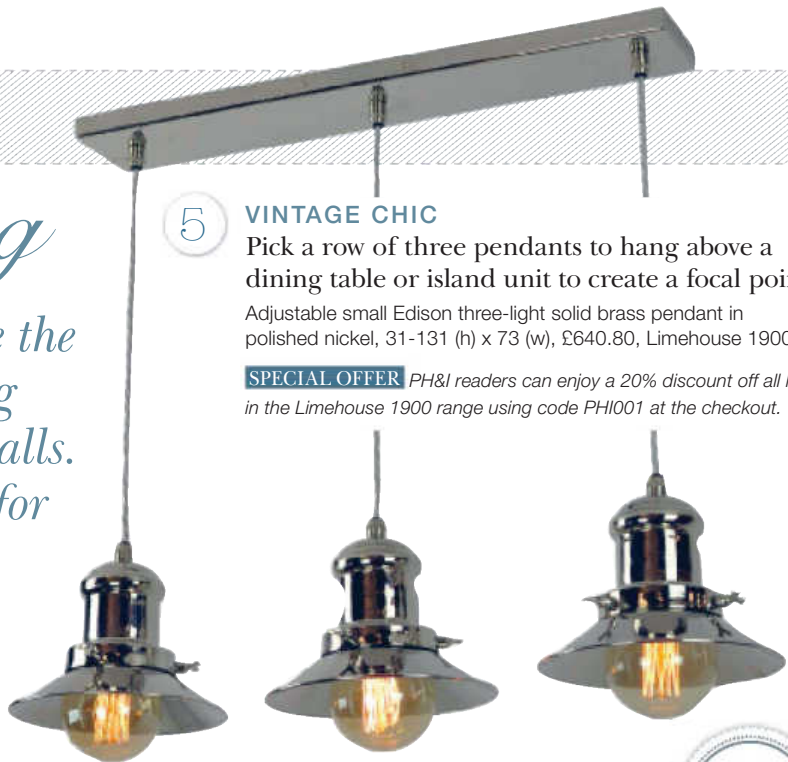
5

VINTAGE CHIC

Pick a row of three pendants to hang above a dining table or island unit to create a focal point.

Adjustable small Edison three-light solid brass pendant in polished nickel, 31-131 (h) x 73 (w), £640.80, Limehouse 1900.

SPECIAL OFFER PH&I readers can enjoy a 20% discount off all lighting in the Limehouse 1900 range using code PH1001 at the checkout.



7

WIRE WORKS

This unusual lamp is handmade from steel with a vintage bronze finish and a hessian shade – perfect for creating light without dominating the space.

Shilling table lamp, 95 (h) x 44 (w) x 44cm (d), £165, Loaf.



COLLECTOR'S PIECE

Be unique and look out for one-off buys. This vintage English desk lamp, circa 1960, was originally a heat lamp. It has a polished aluminium shade and lacquered cast-steel base.

8



British table light by Pifco, comes tested and rewired with traditional black braided cable and bayonet (B22) lamp holders, 38 (h) x 24.5cm (dia), £456, Skinflint.

COLOUR-BLOCKING

If you're working on a new kitchen plan, consider using the colour-block concept.

Mixing one or two subtle paint shades with natural timber creates an on-trend look that is perfect for a traditional kitchen. This is the Tetbury solid timber kitchen by Burbidge, shown in Sage, White and natural oak, from £750 for a 600mm base cabinet. www.burbidge.co.uk.



IN THE KITCHEN

Go for colour-blocking for an on-trend look, then team with vintage-style accessories

Create a collection

We love the idea of easy-to-collect decorative items to have on display in the kitchen – spoons and cutlery are enticingly affordable and can be found in any antique market. These are from The Cutlery Commission, and can be personalised with names or initials. Take a look at the salt spoons and cake forks too. Personalised vintage jam spoons, £18.50 each. 01242 523377, www.thecutlerycommission.com.



SOUNDS PERFECT

A digital radio is a necessity in the kitchen so that you can cook, chop and prep while listening to *The Archers*. The new Whitby design by Mini Moderns for Pure has a fishing boat design inspired by 1950s linocuts, which features on both the Pop Midi, £89.99, and Pop Maxi digital radio, £109.99. Both have bluetooth for wireless streaming; sound quality is astounding, and they work off the mains or via a rechargeable battery pack. www.minimoderns.com.



If you are looking for the perfect 'china Blue' paint shade for the kitchen, look at the Little Greene chart (www.littlegreene.com). Mambo 112, Tivoli 206 and James 108 are just the ticket for a touch of colour.

TILE STYLE

Add a touch of bright blue with a colourful Portuguese-style tiles roller blind, from £119, by DigetexHome. 0161 873 8891, www.digetexhome.co.uk.



In the mix...

A mixer that is beautiful enough to leave out on the work surface to be admired is also likely to get more use than if it's tucked away in a cupboard. We're hankering after the KM4100



Ultramix, £349.99, by AEG. It has two bowls, a balloon whisk, beater and dough hook, 10 speed settings and built-in LED lights. 0344 561 1611, www.aeg.co.uk.



Tray chic...

3 OF THE BEST TEA TRAYS

1. Laser-printed engineered wood serving trays: small, 33cm (w), £25; large, 43cm (w), £34; both In-Spaces.
2. Slate Cutlery painted birchwood tray by Ary Trays, 38cm (dia), £26.50, Amara.
3. Bon Appetit zinc tray with wooden hand grips, 39.5 (l) x 28 (w) x 5.5cm (d), £24.50, Boutique Provencale.



Let's Get Cooking!

www.myappliances.co.uk

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TOP OF THE RANGE

Traditional heat-storage range cookers are energy-efficient and provide a warm kitchen or go for a range-style cooker that offers a selection of cooking styles



EVGCC Custom professional range with eight burners and two ovens, £10,850, Viking. 01925 821280, www.viking.com.

MAKING CHOICES

If a heat-storage range cooker is not for you, but you're still willing to make a substantial investment, look at models from Lacanche, La Cornue, Wolf and Viking. These once-in-a-lifetime purchases will make the kitchen the centre of attention, and a definite style statement. Models from Britannia, Stoves, Belling, Smeg and Bertazzoni come in a brilliant range of colours. For bespoke colours, look at the Colourange from Britannia.

Range cookers are generally 90cm, 100cm or 110cm wide. Make the most of the space by going for a minimum of two ovens plus a separate grill and storage drawer. There are endless combinations, but we recommend a single standard oven, separate grill and tall static, multi-shelf oven, ideal for batch baking.



Best for:

Traditional heat storage

Everhot 110+ in Burgundy

- Two large cast-iron hot plates – hot and simmer.
- Three ovens – roasting, baking and slow cooking.
- Available in a range of colours and sizes.
- £7,895.

01453 890018, www.everhot.co.uk



Best for:

Clever cooks

Caple CR9207 range cooker

- Stainless steel 900mm range cooker with two multi-function ovens.
- Turbo grill, defrost function, rotisserie and closed-door grilling.
- From £1,332.

www.caple.co.uk



Best for:

Easy cleaning

Smeg TR93X range cooker

- Retro-styling.
- 90cm wide.
- Six-burner gas hob. Two ovens.
- Vapour-clean steam-cleaning.
- Closed-door grilling.
- Around £1,699.

www.smeguk.com



Best for:

Adding mood lighting

Rangemaster Hi-Lite Induction 110 range cooker

- Illuminated fascia and five-zone induction hob.
- Conventional and fan ovens.
- Lower storage drawer.
- £2,569.

www.rangemaster.co.uk



Best for:

Providing heat and hot water

Rayburn Heatranger 3705FW

- Runs on solid fuel.
- Two ovens and two hot plates.
- Can heat up to 12 radiators and provide hot water for a 190-litre cylinder.
- From £5,545.

www.rayburn-web.co.uk

LOOK OUT FOR...

If you've got a small kitchen, look at the compact central heating cooker from Heritage Range Cookers. It measures 840mm wide, has two ovens, a double hob and can run up to 12 radiators. www.heritagerangecookers.co.uk.

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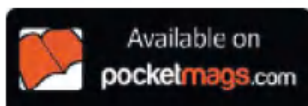
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PRIZE DRAW | HOTEL STAY



WIN! A Michelin-star *gourmet break* in Sussex

You and a guest could be enjoying sensational cuisine and an overnight stay at South Lodge Hotel, courtesy of Pride of Britain Hotels

Situated in the heart of the dramatic Sussex Downs, less than an hour from central London, South Lodge Hotel in Horsham is an inspired and spacious retreat to indulge yourself with fine wine, gourmet food and unbeatable horizons. Built in 1883, the hotel is a magnificent former family country house – the perfect place to relax, unwind and enjoy the finer things in life surrounded by five-star luxury.

Each of the 89 bedrooms has been individually designed so no two are the same – all have handmade mattresses, some have four-poster beds and his-and-hers baths, many have remarkable views and two even have their own open-air bubbling hot tubs. There are several dining choices available at the hotel: the elegant Camellia Restaurant, complete with alfresco dining in the warmer

months; The Cellar, offering lighter bites and more than 200 wines to choose from by the glass; and The Pass, headed up by TV chef Matt Gillan, which has four AA Rosettes and a Michelin star and is situated in the heart of the kitchen, enabling diners to see first-hand the creativity and sheer theatre of a busy restaurant team in action.

Your prize will include overnight accommodation for two in a Junior Suite with full English breakfast, plus dinner in the hotel's fabulous Michelin-star dining venue The Pass. Find out more about the hotel and the other hotels in the Pride of Britain collection at www.prideofbritainhotels.com or call 0800 089 3929 to order your free hotel directory.



ENTER ONLINE BY VISITING: www.periodhomesandinteriors.com Closing date: 31 October 2015

Terms & conditions Entries close at midnight on 31 October 2015. Winners will be selected at random from all entries received. The prize draw is not open to Pride of Britain employees. The winner will be contacted after the prize draw closes by Pride of Britain or by its appointed representatives. If the winning entrant cannot be contacted after reasonable attempts have been made, Pride of Britain reserves the right to stand that entrant down and select another winner. Pride of Britain's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Pride of Britain reserves the right to alter and/or cancel the prize draw without any prior warning. All personal data submitted with consent will be kept by Pride of Britain for the purpose of sending out the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize, it is non-transferable and not for resale. Prize includes a one-night stay in a room for two people with three-course dinner and full breakfast the next day, and is subject to availability. It must be taken by 31 March 2016, and excludes Bank Holidays and Christmas, New Year and Valentine's Day. Additional expenses are the responsibility of the prize winner. Travel is not included. The prize draw is not open to employees of MediaJamm and Kelsey Publishing Group. Only one entry permitted per person, no bulk entries will be accepted. We reserve the right to cancel the promotion if circumstances change that are beyond our control. By entering you agree to be bound by all the rules and agree that your surname and county may be released if you win. By providing personally identifiable information when entering this promotion, you are agreeing that we may use it to provide you with on-going information about our products and services, although you can unsubscribe at any time, if you wish to do so. *Period Homes & Interiors* is a Kelsey Media brand. Kelsey Media will only ever use your information in line with its Multi Layered Privacy Notice. For full details, visit www.kelsey.co.uk. If you have any questions please ask as submitting your data indicates your consent, until you choose otherwise, that we may contact you about products and services that we believe to be of relevance to you.



A COLOURFUL *future*

Hampton Manor in the heart of the West Midlands offers a lesson in how traditional buildings can have new life breathed into them, thanks to vibrant, modern furnishings

A stay at Hampton Manor can be likened to enjoying a visual masterclass in interior design. Step inside the doors of this Neo-Tudor gothic-style country house hotel near Solihull and prepare to be wowed by the genius mix of contemporary decoration siting comfortably alongside a wealth of period features.

INSPIRATION OVERLOAD

Hampton Manor is an intimate five-star hotel, where the friendly, informative staff bend over backwards to accommodate your every need and request. All but three of the 15 bedrooms are located in the main house, with the remainder



reached via a spiral staircase in the adjoining Butler's Lodge. *Period Homes & Interiors* checked in to the George Fentham suite in the main house and we were hit with a visual overload of inspiration. We've never thought about painting our walls black... until now, that is.

Our beautiful room had three painted walls with the fourth covered in a striking monochrome geometric paper. Accent colour came courtesy of bright shots of fuchsia on the curtains and from lampshades hanging above black bedside tables. The bed was backed by an oversized black and pink tartan headboard, while cushions in a meld of colour and texture were piled onto a grey retro sofa. Cleverly merging unobtrusively into the background was a black Louis-style armoire by John Reeves. The effect was seriously smart and sophisticated.

The rest of the bedrooms are equally unique, each one decorated in its own individual style. We sneaked a peak at some of the others and can vouch for the credentials of Richard, a long, narrow room situated in the eaves of the Butler's Lodge with funky low-level Moroccan-style seating; and XO, which is compact and colourful with a bright floral feature wall behind the bed. A



Clockwise from above


The George Fentham suite is decorated in a sophisticated palette of black and fuchsia pink; The Parlour with its striking floral patterned walls is the social hub of the hotel; book a private table for dinner in The Tasting Room. **Left** Many of the rooms feature baths big enough for two.



special mention must also go to The Parlour, the social hub of the hotel. Dominated at either end by identical fireplaces with large mirrors above, this elegant room is furnished in perfect symmetry, giving the clever illusion that you are seeing half of the room in reflection.

GET THE HAMPTON LOOK

We visited Hampton Manor knowing we would enjoy a relaxing weekend away, but what we hadn't expected was the level of inspiration a stay here offers. The hotel is evidently quite

used to guests asking how they can recreate the Hampton look at home, as lots of the furnishings and accessories are available to buy, from the floral wallpaper in The Parlour (priced at £220 per roll) to the Bloomingville Japanese-style teapots used to serve afternoon tea. If you want to be equally inspired, rooms at Hampton Manor start from £150 per night; the George Fentham suite costs £270 per night. 

◆ Hampton Manor, Hampton-in-Arden, 01675 446080, www.hamptonmanor.com.



5 THINGS TO DO AT HAMPTON MANOR

1 Enjoy afternoon tea (with Champagne, if you're feeling decadent) in the romantic surroundings of The Parlour with its silver, lilac and green floral colour scheme. Dainty treats served on tiered cake stands are a work of art.

2 Dine in the hotel's Peel's Restaurant, which is gaining something of a reputation for its food. We can recommend the four-course tasting menu with carefully paired wine. We're predicting it won't be long before talented head chef Rob Palmer is boasting his first Michelin star.

3 Book the table in The Tasting Room and enjoy the theatre of watching the chefs at work in the à la carte kitchen via the large viewing window.

4 Explore the 45 acres of grounds, which include woodland walks, original ha-has and pathways that meander past flower-filled beds leading to the village church and picturesque high street at Hampton-in-Arden (easy-to-follow maps are thoughtfully provided in your room).

5 Grab one of the colourful picnic blankets that are folded up next to the back door and enjoy a picnic in the shadow of the ornate clock tower.



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PH&I picks... Top 20 Dream homes

We've found properties for sale that are brimming with period details and character

01 ROPSLEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

PRICE: £775,000

The Old Rectory is a handsome Georgian property set in secluded private gardens. Sympathetically restored to create an elegant and comfortable family home, it comes with planning permission for an atrium-style kitchen/breakfast room. The entrance hall has a Lincolnshire flagstone floor and the three main reception rooms all have working fireplaces and window shutters. The country-style kitchen has hand-painted units, a separate pantry with fitted shelves and a utility room. Upstairs there's a spacious master bedroom with beautiful views over the gardens, original floorboards and a working original-tiled open fireplace. There are three further double bedrooms all with fireplaces, a single room currently used as a dressing room and a family bathroom. Set in one acre, the property is approached via a gravelled drive, has an oak garage with workshop and is chain free. Ropsley is located six miles from Grantham, where there's a train link to London's Kings Cross. Fine & Country, 01476 584164, www.fineandcountry.com.

PROPERTY
OF THE
MONTH



02 HINDERTON, CHESHIRE

PRICE: £499,500

Built in 1884, this sandstone water tower was converted to a residential property in 1975 and later extended. Spread over four floors, the ground floor comprises dining hall, cloakroom, study and kitchen/breakfast room, with a lounge, music room and balcony on the first floor. On the two upper floors there are four bedrooms, a spacious family bathroom and a raised deck with wonderful views. Outside there's a double garage and part-walled gardens adjoining open countryside. Clive Watkin, 0151 327 5665, www.clivewatkin.com.

The property comes with planning permission for an atrium-style kitchen/breakfast room





03



04



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08

03 FULBOURN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

PRICE: £685,000

Number 11 Balsham Road is a charming 18th-century detached cottage with exposed beams and inglenook fireplaces. It comprises kitchen/breakfast room with adjoining utility room, sitting room and dining room on the ground floor, with four bedrooms, one of which is en suite, and a family bathroom on the first floor. The cottage is set back from the road with enclosed gardens and is four miles from Cambridge. TuckerGardner, 01223 845240, www.tuckergardner.com.

04 MUDEFORD, DORSET

PRICE: £1,575,000

The Staith, the major part of a Grade II-listed Georgian townhouse, has breathtaking views out across the historic quay and harbour. Fully refurbished with generously proportioned rooms, it includes an elegant drawing room, family room and a conservatory. Upstairs there are four double bedrooms. John D Wood & Co, 01590 540067, www.johnndwood.co.uk.

05 FOCHABERS, MORAY

PRICE: £850,000

Speybank House is a substantial detached house set at the heart of the village. Built in the 1800s, the property needs modernising but retains plenty of period features, including tall ceilings with ornate cornicing and plasterwork, fireplaces,

working servants' bells and timber shutters. It comes with six bedrooms, three bathrooms, four receptions rooms and a converted two-bedroom detached coach house. CKD Galbraith, 01343 546362, www.ckdgalbraith.co.uk.

06 ST MARGARET'S BAY, KENT

PRICE: £895,000

Situated above the bay, Berkeley has been modernised and improved to make a light and spacious home with all of the principal rooms benefitting from its stunning location. Downstairs the open-plan kitchen/dining/living space is perfect for family living. On the first floor there are two double bedrooms with balconies, a dressing room and a utility area, and on the second floor there's a master en suite with doors opening on to a decked area. Bright & Bright, 01304 374071, www.brightandbright.co.uk.

07 SOULDERN, OXFORDSHIRE

PRICE: £695,000

Pond Cottage has been updated and renovated to create a stylish home. Period features include

window shutters, lattice leaded windows, beamed ceilings and pine doors. The impressive drawing room features a reclaimed early 19th-century French stone mantelpiece housing a log burner. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and two bathrooms. The gardens have various terrace areas and enjoy a rural outlook towards the village church. Strutt & Parker, 01295 297876, www.struttandparker.com.

08 WOTHORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE

PRICE: £450,000

Number 4 Wothorpe Villas combines elegant proportions, period details and modern comforts for family living. Downstairs there's a library area with fitted shelves, a sitting room, dining room and kitchen with open fireplace and fitted units. A rear door leads through to a covered area with access to the garden, utility room and spacious garden room. Upstairs there are four double bedrooms, a family bathroom and stairs leading to master suite with dressing room and bathroom. Savills incorporating Smiths Gore, 01780 484696, www.savills-smithsgore.co.uk.

A light and spacious home with all of the principal rooms benefitting from its stunning location

Berkeley, property 6



09 STAPLECROSS, EAST SUSSEX

PRICE: £750,000

Hollow Wall Oast is a detached twin-roundel oast house in a rural location. The spacious family home comprises a sitting room with a wood-burning stove, roundel dining room, kitchen/breakfast room and utility room on the ground floor, with four bedrooms, one of which is en suite, and a family bathroom on the first floor. The property sits in 2.6 acres and there's lapsed planning permission to create an annexe on the site of the stable block. Freeman Forman, 01892 599809, www.freemanforman.co.uk.

10 GREAT HENNY, SUFFOLK

PRICE: £625,000

Snells is a Grade II-listed detached family home in need of updating with a wealth of period features, including exposed beams, leaded windows and an inglenook fireplace. Upstairs comprises five bedrooms and a bathroom while downstairs there are three reception rooms and a kitchen/breakfast room with separate pantry. David Burr, 01787 883144, www.davidburr.co.uk.

11 ECCLESTON, CHESHIRE

PRICE: £995,000

Built in 1894 for the 1st Duke of Westminster, Mill Hill House is brimming with period features including a Minton tiled hallway floor, open fireplaces in both dual-aspect reception rooms

Extended to create a spacious interior that blends 17th-century character with modern living

The Thatch, Property 13

and an ornate dining room ceiling. There's also a sitting room, study and a comfortable kitchen/breakfast room with a window seat and French doors to the garden. Upstairs there are six bedrooms and two bathrooms. Strutt & Parker, 01244 354880, www.struttandparker.com.

12 SANDHOE, NORTHUMBERLAND

PRICE: £895,000

The Coach House mixes contemporary style and period details and has been arranged to take full advantage of its surroundings, with a triple-aspect first-floor sitting room opening onto a sun deck. There's also a living room, three bedrooms and a family bathroom on this floor. On the ground floor is a dining hall, breakfast room/kitchen, a gymnasium/family room with en suite and a master bedroom suite with dressing room and shower room. Savills incorporating Smiths Gore, 01434 632404 www.savills-smithsgore.co.uk.

13 WESTMANCOTE, WORCESTERSHIRE

PRICE: £795,000

The Thatch is a Grade II-listed cottage set in a desirable hillside village with fantastic country walks on its doorstep. Extended to create a

stunning, spacious interior that blends 17th century character with modern living, the hall has an inglenook fireplace and there's a sitting room, dining room, bespoke fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility and ground-floor shower room. Upstairs are three bedrooms, including a master suite and a family bathroom. The gardens are exceptional and there's a detached double garage with a room above. RA Bennett & Partners, 01386 388063, www.rabennett.co.uk.

14 HINDHEAD, SURREY

PRICE: £650,000

Escape the rat race and invest in Keepers Cottage, a charming 16th-century cottage approached via a two-mile track with stunning views of the Devils Punchbowl. Downstairs comprises double-aspect sitting room with inglenook fireplace and wood burner, heavily beamed dining room, kitchen, utility room and bathroom. Upstairs there are three bedrooms, all with exposed timbers, with bedroom two accessed via bedroom one or three. Outside there is a detached oak barn office, wood store, carport and a spring water well. Keats, 01428 648486, www.keats.biz.



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15 COLNE ENGAIN, ESSEX PRICE: £1,150,000

This Grade II-listed watermill conversion has extensive river frontage and is surrounded by the Colne Valley countryside. The five-bedroom property, spread over four floors, is bursting with character and retains many original features. The kitchen floor has a glass viewing panel looking down into the flowing water and the dining room has exposed timbers and original pit wheel. Outside, the granary has been converted into an annexe and the grounds extend to 6.5 acres. Fenn Wright, 01206 763388, www.fennwright.co.uk.

16 SALCOMBE, DEVON PRICE: £1,250,000

St Nicholas is a detached family home built in the early 1900s. The house is within walking distance of the vibrant town centre and has been restored to retain much of its period character. The property boasts fabulous estuary and countryside views, particularly from the first floor, where there are five bedrooms and three bathrooms. The ground floor comprises two reception rooms and an open-plan kitchen/diner with separate utility room. Marchand Petit, 01548 844473, www.marchandpetit.co.uk.

17 LOWER HARLESTONE, NORTHANTS PRICE: £229,950

Side by Side Cottage is an attractive double-fronted three-storey cottage situated off the main road in this popular village. The property stands on the edge of the Althorp Estate and is offered with vacant possession. Downstairs comprises lounge, kitchen/diner with a semi-vaulted ceiling, contemporary kitchen units and granite work surfaces plus utility lobby. On the first floor is the master bedroom and a bathroom and there are two further bedrooms on the second floor. Richard Greener, 01604 230222, www.richardgreener.co.uk.

18 HETHERSETT, NORWICH PRICE: £950,000

Cedar Grange is a Grade II-listed former farmhouse with welcoming character, generous accommodation and partly walled grounds. Period details are throughout and include shutters, stone fireplaces, tiled flooring, archways, a beautiful sweeping staircase and timber floors. The ground floor comprises comfortable sitting room, dining room, study, family room and large kitchen. The first floor has a split-level landing with five/six double bedrooms, including an impressive

en-suite master room, and a staircase leads to two attic bedrooms. Fine & Country, 01603 221888, www.fineandcountry.com.

19 ROWINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE PRICE: £1,850,000

High House is a Grade II-listed Georgian home with exposed beams, large inglenook fireplaces, parquet and flagstone floors and large windows. Downstairs comprises four reception rooms and a fantastic kitchen/family room with underfloor heating. The first floor has four bedrooms, all with bathrooms, and the refurbished second floor offers scope for a master suite. Fine & Country, 01926 455950, www.fineandcountry.com.

20 QUENDON, ESSEX PRICE: £450,000

Mill House is a Grade II-listed terraced timber-frame property with a driveway leading to a parking area and double garage. Both the sitting room, with inglenook-style fireplace, and the dining room are heavily timbered and there's a fitted kitchen. Upstairs there's an en-suite master bedroom with a vaulted ceiling, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom. Mullucks Wells, 01799 520520, www.mullucks.co.uk.

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Email the details, plus a high-resolution image (300dpi) of the exterior to phi.ed@kelsey.co.uk. If your home is suitable for inclusion in the property section, a fee of £60 for subscribers, and £100 for non-subscribers, will be charged. Make your cheque payable to *Period Homes & Interiors* magazine (including subscription number if applicable) and send to On the Market, *Period Homes & Interiors*, Kelsey Media, Cudham Tithe Barn, Berry's Hill, Cudham, Kent TN16 3AG. We work three months in advance and properties are chosen at the Editor's discretion.

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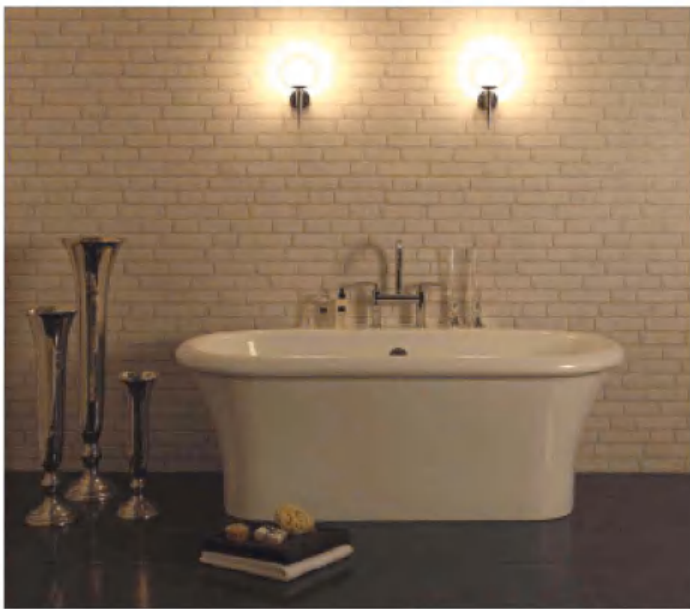
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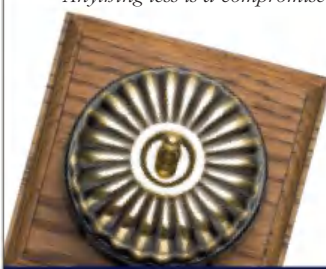
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The fire starter

We meet Ruth Devlin of Devlin Jones Firebellows, creator of bespoke fireside accessories handmade in Scotland



How did you get into what you do? I had been running my own upholstery business for more than 20 years when sadly one of my uncles, who made bellows in Wiltshire, passed away. When I realised no-one was going to take over the business I offered to give it a go.

Have you always been interested in designing and making? From an early age I was always creating. My mum taught me how to sew and knit when I was younger, but it was only after I left nursing and tried my hand at upholstery that I realised how much I had missed it.

What was the first piece you ever made? The first set of bellows I made was 10 years ago, based on designs left by my uncle.

What inspires your designs? Having my uncle's templates was very useful to base my designs on. We now stock six different styles: two



Clockwise from left Coll traditional bellows, from £285; Colonsay bellows with zebra print on cowhide, from £260.95; long-handled Barra bellows with tan leather, from £300.95; Colonsay bellows are available in different colours and finishes.


of them are replicas of Uncle John's; the other four I have developed to have a more contemporary look.

How does the making process work? When I took on the bellows I soon realised that if I tried to do every stage in the process myself I would rarely leave my workshop. I made the decision to get a local joiner to create the wooden components, which I then sand and polish (roping in my husband in his spare time when I can). We get a Yorkshire firm to make the nozzles, which are precision-engineered from solid brass or polished stainless steel and remain the most expensive component of the bellows. I then add the insert, whether leather or someone's clan tartan. The bellows are then finished off with decorative studs and then

finally the nozzle is inserted. Most of the bellows are made on a bespoke basis, but we always stock a few ready made in case someone wants a last-minute present.

Do you enjoy working for yourself? You have greater flexibility in your life – this can mean that sometimes you find yourself working 15 hours a day but also on a sunny afternoon you can find time for a walk with the dogs on the beach. As long as you can remain motivated, working for yourself is a rewarding way of life.

What's the most important thing you've learnt? To take every day as it comes – you never know what tomorrow will bring.

What's next for your business? I would like to try and get the bellows over to Scandinavia. 

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